

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

December 2, 1981

About a month ago I reported to you concerning the financial picture for the U.S. A special computer-generated report had just been given me showing an increase of about 22% for the year to date, compared to the same period for 1980. This good news was immediately passed on to you.

The next day, after the report to you had been sent, another computer-generated report arrived. The figures were different, with an increase of about 18% for the same period. After inquiry I learned that the first report was a "management tool" with "weighted" information which was supposed to give a more realistic comparison. This special report took into account the timing of the Feasts and factors relative to the processing of the holy day offering. In 1980 this processing was done much more slowly than in 1981. The result of all of these and other factors gave an unrealistic rather than a realistic picture of the true affairs. So, sadly, I must report that the true figure last month should have been about 18% instead of the 22% increase.

We have now completed another month, and have actual (not weighted) figures for eleven full months. The increase is 17.7% more than the first eleven months last year. Here is a breakdown of the various sources of income:

General Contributions	+16.2%
Festival Fund	+22.4%
Church Assistance	+23.4%
Building Fund	- 9.8%
Holy Day Offerings	+22.9%

It would be nice to have a greater increase; however, God has more than supplied the need. As the Church grows spiritually and the needs grow more, He will provide.

We are now starting the 1982 budget process, which should be completed by the time of my next report. We are endeavoring to hold down costs in all areas except the preaching of the Gospel and direct support areas, so that the Good News of God's Kingdom might be preached more powerfully.

Please continue your urgent prayers for all of us here, as we do for all of you around the world.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Instructions on Requesting Guest Speakers for U.S. Churches

Many church pastors have misunderstood how and when they should go about requesting a guest speaker for their church.

Some pastors have invited guest speakers for Y.O.U. events, for church socials, for tenth, fifteenth, and twentieth anniversaries, or for a Sabbath when two, three or more churches will be combining for whatever reason.

A little simple arithmetic will show how hopeless it would be to try to fill all these requests. With 43 Y.O.U. districts, there are 86 district week-ends per year. There are potentially 43 more track meets and 43 more talent contests. Additionally, in our 368 U.S. churches there are continually combined church socials or events of every sort, not counting tenth, fifteenth, and twentieth anniversaries. You can see that we simply cannot budget for sending guest speakers to these kinds of activities.

However, we have and will continue to budget for guest speakers for Holy Days. Holy Days are of course much more special and appropriate times for visits. It gives our brethren as well as you ministers a special boost to hear from Pasadena on one of God's Holy Days. We will again this year, as we have for the past two, send out guest speakers on the first and last days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and the Feast of Trumpets. We will cover as many churches as possible this year and cover the rest the following year.

From time to time, due to special circumstances we may send a guest on days other than these Holy Days. Also, Mr. Armstrong makes trips to various U.S. and Canadian churches. Please do not expect to have a Holy Day guest if your church has already had Mr. Armstrong or another guest speaker--until all other U.S. churches have been visited. In this way, all churches will have a reasonable opportunity to hear from a visiting minister.

One other factor needs to be explained. If you do have a special need or extenuating circumstances, please feel free to request a guest speaker anyway. But make your request directly to Ministerial Services. Not, as many have been doing, to the specific person you would like to come to your area. You should not be inviting anyone to come to your church to speak. All such requests should be made to Ministerial Services. Here we will consider the request as well as the budget and other factors. (This does not include the normal bordering church visits you men work out from time to time among yourselves in your own local church areas, of course.)

In conclusion, if you do desire a guest speaker for a particular upcoming Holy Day, feel free to make that known. Often there are many factors that would make one time better than another. We will, as always, try to send a Holy Day guest speaker at the time most suitable and convenient to you, and the other churches with which you may wish to combine. (Although, please realize, this is not always possible.) Once you have had a guest speaker, please remember that it could be a year or more before all other U.S. churches have had a guest speaker and your area has another turn. Thank you for your continued cooperation, understanding, and prayers.

International News

Report From Australia Over 5,000 Australian and Asian brethren gathered this year in this area of the world to hear Mr. Armstrong set the theme with his opening night message. This theme continued throughout the Feast with ministers and members alike commenting on the greater unity, the warmth, and the outgoing concern expressed by the brethren at each festival site.

The sermons covered a wide range of helpful topics, pointing the brethren to the reality of the World Tomorrow. The informative and strengthening messages given by Mr. Richard Ames, guest speaker from Pasadena, were most appreciated. Mr. Robert Morton, Australian and Asian Regional Director, traveled extensively throughout the Feast, speaking at all but one of the Australian festival sites.

Final registration figures for the Feast were 5,260 for Australia and 467 for Asia.

The PLAIN TRUTH: Printing The PLAIN TRUTH in Sydney these past several months has resulted in a marked improvement in delivery time to our subscribers in Australia. Instead of waiting two to three months for the magazine to reach them from Singapore, the current issue is now in their hands the first or second week of the month.

Also, we have noted that the mail returns are now reaching us within a short time of the magazine being posted, and we are able to update the file immediately and save hundreds of dollars in printing and postage costs each month by preventing future issues being mailed to these inactive addresses.

Our ongoing renewal program is maintaining a list of interested PLAIN TRUTH readers and we are currently mailing the magazine to 70,000 subscribers in Australia and 34,000 in Asia.

Mail and Income: A total of 15,619 letters were received in October and income for the month rose by an excellent 42.4%. Holy Day offerings for 1981 increased by 30.7%, and our year-to-date combined first tithe and offering income figure now stands at a 23.6% increase.

Asian Tour Planned: Mr. Bill Sidney, our Financial Services Manager and local elder in God's Church, is leaving next month on a visiting/baptizing tour through Indonesia. He will be accompanied by a third-year student from Ambassador College, Mr. Tim Grauel. Mr. Grauel is spending one year in Australia gaining experience working with the field ministry, and this Asian tour will add immeasurably to his experience.

Mr. Sidney and Mr. Grauel will be traveling into some of the more remote areas of Indonesia visiting with a number of people who have been in regular contact with the office here, and who are now interested in meeting with a minister of the Church.

There are currently 1,300 PLAIN TRUTH subscribers in Indonesia, and 181 of these are studying the Correspondence Course lessons.

The Tragic Conditions in El Salvador We want to share with you a letter in its entirety written by our minister in El Salvador to Spanish-area Regional Director, Mr. Leon Walker. It details the tragic situation being experienced by our 41 members and one elder in that country:

Brotherly greetings from El Salvador and many thanks for your constant prayers to our God on behalf of the members in this country.

The situation in El Salvador is one of constant tension and anguish, owing to the mindless attitudes of the battling groups. In recent months they have committed the most incredibly barbarous and savage

actions, typifying a sick mentality driven by Satanic instincts. They murder, rape, burn, torture, rob and kidnap with unbridled violence. I feel their goal is not power, but to satisfy that insatiable thirst for blood that possesses them.

As an example, in recent months the leftist groups have taken upon themselves the task of demolishing the pylons which support electric power lines. The capital of El Salvador was kept in darkness for three days, causing commercial and industrial losses calculated in the millions of colones [hundreds of thousands of dollars]. Besides commerce and industry, hospitals and almost the entire population were affected because of water shortages which occurred at the same time. The idea of these terrorists was to isolate the country. The impact of electricity shortages has been greatest in the provinces of San Miguel, La Union, Cabanas and Morazan.

As if all that weren't enough, these leftist groups leave bombs in homes or businesses: this seems to be the tool they have been using most in the last few weeks. As a result, when night falls, it becomes a time of anxiety and worry--everyone is on edge, waiting to hear the loud, resounding explosions of these deadly devices which are detonated with the express purpose of demoralizing storekeepers, increasing unemployment and undermining the country's already suffering economy even more. All this to fulfill the slogan of these subversives: they have declared that they will wage a prolonged "popular" war against the government.

Are they accomplishing their goals?

I think they are, in part, and little by little. Although it's true that if at night a building's walls are destroyed, the next morning the bricklayers are at work early rebuilding it; still there are expenses to be met. This leaves the owners in debt (besides the looting to which they sometimes fall victim because of the large numbers of thieves who have proliferated in the country--they plague businesses and everybody else, regardless of social status). In order to finance these debts, the owners must resort to taking out loans from banks and other financial institutions. These, in turn, also find themselves in trouble and must request loans from other countries to be able to overcome the difficulties to which they are subjected.

In addition, whenever they can, these terrorist groups continue to destroy the crops in some regions of the country--mainly in the eastern area, bounded by the Gulf of Fonseca. To date they have also placed bombs in five railroad engines and have also destroyed several bridges, in some cases isolating small settlements which are then invaded by these groups who sometimes number up to 300. They steal, loot, rape, burn, murder and abuse the defenseless civilian population, but when the army comes to defend the civilians, the terrorists escape or abandon the town without being captured. One hears rumors from some residents of these regions that some people belonging to the civil authority, called "district patrols," also take part in these acts of vandalism, thereby contributing to the increasing pain and misery of these towns. This could be possible judging from the answer that the Minister of Defense gave to a question from a newspaper reporter. He said that the higher authorities have no control over, nor

can they discover, the abuses which are being committed by these people who are misusing their authority in carrying out these irresponsible acts.

But it's not only the leftists who torture, murder, rape and destroy; it's also the right wing groups. These have lately acted mercilessly and have plummeted to the depths of savagery, murdering defenseless people by beheading them, leaving the bodies on one side of the street and the heads on the other. The bodies are left abandoned since nobody wants to become involved--sometimes it's not even known who they are, much less where they are from. They are left to be devoured by birds of prey, dogs and pigs.

Suffering has made its appearance in so many different forms in El Salvador that one can safely say that there isn't a single person in the whole country who has never shed tears of sorrow. I could add that it would be rare to find a family who has not been, directly or indirectly, affected by the level of violence that plagues El Salvador. And I should add that the most stricken group has been that of the peasants, mainly in the eastern part of the country. The residents of many of these small towns and villages have had to flee from the horrible ongoing situation in these regions, thus multiplying the already great number of refugees. Despite these critical circumstances, the results obtained through the cooperatives brought about by agrarian reform have made possible such good harvests of primary foodstuffs (beans, rice, corn, sorghum, etc.) that we have been able to export some excess to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and even to Mexico.

Unemployment increases more each day. The only alternative people have is to leave the country, if one has the financial means to do so, although some go into debt in order to pay the cost of transportation.

Foreign tourism doesn't exist; nevertheless the hoteliers have come up with ways of developing local tourism. It is common to see them offer weekend specials: one arrives on a Friday or Saturday and stays in the hotel until Sunday. There one can enjoy dancing, meals, shows, sports, etc., as well as the room, all for a set price. Moreover, there has been a proliferation of dance floors and skating (called "roller boogie") rinks for young people's entertainment. This has continued in spite of the fact that several of these rinks have been ruined by the vandalism of terrorist groups who declare that we are not here to have fun, but to make war.

However, despite these crises and problems, the people stoically bear up, and at times, to relieve the tension, they turn to entertainment as a form of escape, perhaps thinking that soon this nightmare will end. That's why they attend the various sports centers.

With regard to the Church members, they still have their jobs, but owing to the inflation that exists, as well as the political tragedy that assails this nation, some of them obviously have to be under pressure in different ways. Nevertheless, in spite of all this, we have never been forsaken by God. Moreover we continue to be faithful to God and loyal to His apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Australian Minister Grateful for Prayers

My family and I would like to thank the ministry and the Church for the prayers, love, encouragement and concern that were expressed to us during our son Jonathan's severe illness.

Jonathan came down with a severe headache on October second. I anointed him on Thursday night and again on Friday afternoon. At first Fiona thought it was tetanus. I examined him closely and by this time he couldn't speak. All of Friday night he was in pain and remained in bed. Early Saturday morning I found him out of bed on the floor. It soon became obvious that he was paralysed down almost all of his right side. After calling Mr. Morton to come over to anoint him, the pain in his head left and after we both anointed him he was able to sit up in bed. At this point he was in good spirits, though still paralysed. Before Mr. Morton left that morning he was able to slur out a few words.

In order to determine what was wrong with him we took him to the Children's Hospital. A pediatrician diagnosed the symptoms as being caused by a lesion on the lower part of the brain where it meets the spinal cord, although he wasn't sure. He said it could be a tumor, a blood clot, or a burst blood vessel. Jonathan was given a "Cat-Scan" (a special device that can externally photograph the brain sections). The scan revealed no abnormalities. The doctors were somewhat amazed at this because it didn't match the symptoms which implied a lesion or thrombosis. Both Fiona and I knew that the cause had been taken away by God.

On Friday night I wheeled Jonathan out of the hospital in a wheelchair. On the following Tuesday he was able to walk with assistance into services for the Holy Day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Today Jonathan is able to walk reasonably well and his right side is gradually coming back to normal.

Once again we wish to thank the ministers and brethren for their prayers. We knew that Jonathan's life was, and is, in God's hands.

John and Fiona Larkin

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

DES MOINES, IA--ROBERT CLONINGER: At least 50 members from the area attended Mr. Armstrong's visit to Minneapolis. It was a very important sermon, and his comments to the ministers afterward were very sobering for us all. I believe it was good for the area elders to see that Mr. Armstrong was strong, healthy, and in charge.

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LEONARD SCHREIBER: Desire for spiritual growth unusually high. Mr. Armstrong's visit and warning message had a great impact, and Mr. Dean Blackwell's message on Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles following his visit served to emphasize the definite need to make some real changes. Sermons at the Dells were outstanding and the film about the Work was a highlight in setting the theme for the Feast.

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DAN FRICKE: The members returning from the Feast are more inspired and reflect a greater determination to grow and serve. People are making spiritual progress in putting God first in their lives.

FT. COLLINS, CO--CHUCK ZIMMERMAN: The fall festival was the high-light. Seems there is now a changed attitude among the brethren--more and more are going for a spiritual Feast, not just their vacation. Have a few disfellowships regaining interest and making corrections in their lives to be reinstated. Extremely heartening to see this change.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: Several offspring of members have returned to fellowship--after taking time to experiment with the world. The conduct of our youth during this last Feast was certainly encouraging and rewarding. At a drug seminar in Rapid City, almost 800 people showed up on a very inclement night--thus showing their interest in education concerning the evils of society.

HARLINGEN, TX--DENNIS VAN DEVENTER: Mr. Armstrong's tapes are receiving a fine response here in the Harlingen Church. We have no media coverage here at all, so it is good for our members to have contact with Mr. Armstrong via tapes.

PORTLAND/BANGOR, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: I have had a great increase in PM's the last two months here in the Bangor area. It is very refreshing to see, plus they are quality visits. Last Sabbath I received two more requests for a visit! God is beginning to bless this area with more growth.

SANTA BARBARA, CA--LES McCOLM: I feel the time is right for public Bible lectures. Those who came to the lecture we recently had here in Santa Barbara were extremely interested in prophecy. After the lecture nearly all of them stayed for refreshments and to ask questions.

COLUMBUS/TERRE HAUTE, IN--STEVE NUTZMAN: The new Y.O.U. MANUAL has really helped to state in detailed terms how to organize local programs and set standards that will insure greater fruit in our young people. A big thanks to those who labored long and hard to write up this much needed material. And to Mr. Armstrong who took the time away from his busy schedule to read and approve the manual. I feel we have taken a most important step in fulfilling Malachi 4:6.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Unique First Contacts With God's Work

The ways in which people first come in contact with the Work are many and varied. Christ's Gospel message has found its way into the remotest parts of the world, reaching all levels of society. Some tell us that they have been searching for the truth for years, while others seemingly stumble onto it. We have selected for your interest excerpts from some of the more unusual letters received.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Telecast Viewed by Chance

Never will I forget that day, back in 1955, when I requested my wife to find a Buck Rogers-type of TV show and she read in the log where it said "World Tomorrow." It sounded just like what I wanted but did I ever have a surprise. Not unpleasant though. Actually, before you were finished interviewing Ambassador Bullit, who had been the United States Ambassador to Russia, I was convinced that at long last God had answered my prayer. I had been asking God to direct me to His true Church.

W.B. (Wichita, KS)

Coupon for Correspondence Course Found on Street

I was glad when I received the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. I thought you would not respond to my request because I had only found the request coupon on the street. I'm enjoying reading the lessons. This is only a start. Little by little the course is helping me to understand what really is the content of the Holy Bible and how it relates to us human beings.

D.Q. (Bayawan, The Philippines)

PLAIN TRUTH Arrived by Mistake

A copy of The PLAIN TRUTH came to our address by mistake and I would like more issues. Good name for the publication!

A.H. (Regina, Canada)

PT on a Seat at Airport

I have just finished reading a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH which I found on a seat at the airport and could not put down. More and more people seem to be searching for the truth, and it is wonderful to have found a magazine such as The PLAIN TRUTH. I will pass my copy on to my friends.

S.L. (Toorbul, Australia)

PT in Crew Mess Hall

Being a sailor, I thrive on reading material. I had noticed The PLAIN TRUTH lying in the crew mess one day last week and since then have read every article twice. I am amazed at the quality and research of your articles and their relationship to God. Please send me a monthly copy of The PLAIN TRUTH to my home address.

T.S. (Georgetown, Canada)

Introduced to PT by Teacher

I'd like to subscribe to your magazine because I find it very interesting. My theme writing teacher told me about the magazine because he subscribes to it. He also gave me the coupon to send you.

L.S.--17 years (Pawtucket, RI)

Friend Introduces PT to Priest

I am a parish priest of the Philippine Independent (Catholic) Church here in Tibiao. Being a new graduate of Saint Andrew's Theological

Seminary, I had been confined within the four walls of the lecture room. I have learned a lot of theology but not fully, since theory is not enough to know well the actual life situation....A friend of mine introduced your magazine to me and I like it very much. I would like to have a continuing education through your magazine.

F.O. (Tibiao, Antique, Philippines)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

REFLECTIONS ON ISRAEL AND EGYPT We are now back in Pasadena after our action-packed, two-and-a-half week trip to Europe and the Middle East. Because of the pace of the travel last week I was unable to file a report at that time.

Viewing the conjunction of world events, it was certainly a unique time to be overseas with Mr. Armstrong. While Mr. Armstrong was visiting two heads of state--and a possible future head of state (or states!)--other leaders from the very areas we were visiting were busy meeting among themselves in three separate summit conferences. Arab leaders were meeting--fighting like cats and dogs, actually--in Fez, Morocco. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt entertained a visitor from the East--Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. Shortly after this the leaders of the 10 Common Market countries assembled for a two-day summit confab in London.

These three conferences ranged from inconclusive to utterly disastrous. On the other hand, Mr. Armstrong's "summit talks" were highly successful on all fronts. As Mr. Armstrong remarked on our flight home, "Have you noticed how God just gives me favor in the eyes of these world leaders I meet?" I responded with a resounding "Yes," for I have now experienced firsthand the honor accorded Mr. Armstrong.

On Tuesday, November 17, Mr. Armstrong had the opportunity to meet, for the first time, President Yitzhak Navon of Israel. I had the privilege of accompanying Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Fahey on this visit. President Navon, age 60, is no stranger to the Israeli political scene. In fact, he and Jerusalem's dynamic mayor, Teddy Kollek, were the two chief aides to the nation's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion. After our meeting, we all agreed that Mr. Navon has the bearing necessary to be a future prime minister himself, should power shift once again to the Labor Party (whose chairman Shimon Peres is somewhat tarnished, owing to his recent election defeat by Mr. Begin). From all appearances, Mr. Navon is quite popular with the Israeli people. He has a younger, very attractive wife who, I understand, is a former beauty contest winner.

In discussing the broad nature of peace with Mr. Armstrong, President Navon said, as an aside, that one must know exactly what the other side (in this case the Arabs) mean by peace. One must know, he added, what the leaders tell their people in their own language. He was referring, of course, to the recent eight-point Saudi "peace plan." Western news sources were led to believe that the Saudis' seventh point referred to "all states" in the Middle East as having a right to live in peace. Mr. Navon, who is fluent in Arabic, as are many Israeli officials, knows full well that the word "all" is not in the official Arabic version of the proposal. Thus a loophole existed not to recognize Israel's right to a peaceful future.

Israel, of course, had turned a deaf ear to the Saudi plan from the very outset, because it was nothing new at all. It called for a return of all Arab lands captured in the 1967 six-day war, including East Jerusalem, and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It amounted to only a rehash of previous U.N. accords.

The Saudi plan moreover was doomed to failure in the Arab world, where it was considered "too moderate." President Navon and the Israeli leaders were the ones least surprised when the Arab head-of-state summit conference collapsed a few days later in Fez, Morocco. The chief item on the agenda, the Saudi proposal, was shot down in flames by the radical Arab states. Perhaps it would be better to say that it was a stillbirth. Less than 48 hours before the conference began, Syria decided to boycott the conference, ensuring its failure. It is certain that the Soviet Union, Syria's arms supplier, told Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad, not to go. Moscow doesn't want any moderate ideas floating around the Middle East. Better to keep the pot boiling.

Arab hard-liners exulted over the conference's early adjournment (after only five and one-half hours). Libyan officials gloated that they had predicted the outcome. The Israelis, for their part merely said "We told you so."

More than anything else, the Fez fiasco showed how weak Saudi Arabia is in Arab circles. The men in Riyadh may be good at shoveling out tons of money to Arabs of all persuasions, but this loose cash hasn't bought much influence for them. It's in Damascus, Baghdad, Tripoli--and Moscow--where the real power resides.

Interestingly enough, after the latest display of Arab distemper and disunity at Fez, the only "ballgame" left in the Middle East is the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, imperfect though it may be.

During Mr. Armstrong's meeting with President Hosni Mubarak on November 21, the Egyptian leader said that he would be continuing two avenues of peace begun by the late Anwar Sadat--the Camp David peace process and the Mt. Sinai peace project in which the Ambassador Foundation is involved. In a 20-minute discussion, which became warmer the longer it went on (and which will be shown on The WORLD TOMORROW television program), President Mubarak mentioned that peace can only come through sacrifice. Mr. Armstrong responded that President Sadat paid the ultimate sacrifice for peace--his life.

Behind the Sadat Assassination

In this light it must be remembered the curious manner in which Sadat died. He was cut down while attending an eighth anniversary "victory" celebration highlighting the initial successes of the war he launched in 1973 in order to recover Egypt's "pride." The tide of the war later turned of course, but the Egyptian military felt that they recovered their manhood and had become, somehow, equal to the Israelis. The image of Moshe Dayan, the hero of the 1967 war, was conversely sullied a bit.

Without this short-lived victory, Anwar Sadat, a man of war, could not have felt confident enough to launch his bold move for peace in November, 1977. Such is peace as the world gives it.

The impact of the October 6 assassination of President Sadat is still very evident in Cairo. Soldiers armed with rifles affixed with bayonets are found everywhere, in front of public buildings and on the many bridges across the Nile. At some intersections, two or three can be seen behind sandbagged positions. Not that they look that alert or menacing, but they're present, just in case. But in case of what?

Few realize that shortly before Sadat's violent death, Egypt was on the verge of a civil war, orchestrated by Soviet agents who wanted Egypt to go the way of Iran. The Kremlin had never forgiven Sadat for expelling 17,000 Soviet military advisors in 1972 and putting Egypt into the Western, specifically American, camp.

It took Moscow years to get even, but by the summer of 1981 they had found Sadat's--and Egypt's--main weak point. This was not hatred of Jews and Israel, but rather that of inherent religious disunity within Egypt itself. Among Egypt's 41 million people, seven per cent are Christian Copts, who are descendents of the original Egyptians. The Russians stirred up latent Moslem distrust of the Copts into a type of holy war to rid Egypt of the Coptic "infidels."

An intercepted message to Moscow from a Russian agent supposedly read: "We can count on mobilizing at least ten million militant Moslems. In provoking trouble between Moslems and Copts and escalating the confrontation through a massive distribution of tracts and tape-recordings we can create a crisis combining the emotions of Lebanon and Iran. Sadat will be shaken, his image irreparably damaged and an internal religious explosion will sweep everything before it."

On June 20, Islamic commandos attacked Copts in three quarters of Cairo, disemboweling priests with meat knives and violating women. Eight Coptic churches went up in flames. The next day, pamphlets printed in advance called on true Moslems to rise up and destroy the impious enemies of Islam.

Coptic anger was naturally rising--exactly as the Soviet agents hoped, planned, and knew it would. Retaliation by the Copts would lead to further Moslem attacks and hopefully--from Moscow's viewpoint--Egypt would be engulfed in flames, with the government collapsing.

President Sadat at first refused to take the report of Soviet strife-seeding seriously, but he knew there had to be a reason why the Moslems and Copts, who had been on generally good terms throughout his reign, were suddenly at each others' throats.

Finally convinced of foul play, Sadat cracked down hard. Out went the Soviet Ambassador, six top Soviet diplomats and hundreds of Soviet technicians and their families. Religious leaders were rounded up in an attempt to defuse the sectarian strife. Things returned somewhat to normal--until a handful of stirred up religious fanatics finally got to the president. As the author of the intelligence newsletter "Special Office Briefs" reports: "The foundations for a terrible murder had been laid--by the Soviet Union."

One gets the impression that sectarian hatreds in Egypt are still just below the surface. One of the drivers assigned to our party in Cairo, himself a Copt, remarked about how "the Moslems hate us."

Will President Mubarak be able to "hold the fort?" From all indications, yes, at least for a while. His support seems to be rather broadly based. Unfortunately the late President Sadat had become aloof not only from the opposition but from some of his own supporters. He had not even talked with leaders of smaller parties supporting him for over a year.

Many people in Egypt, according to one of our drivers, felt that President Sadat had been living like one of the Pharaohs of old. He and the First Lady enjoyed the use of over a hundred former palaces and mansions.

President Mubarak is seeking to change the image of the presidency. The palaces are to be closed again. He has ordered that no official pictures of his wife are to appear in public. He has already reopened lines of communication to other political parties who, in turn, have supported a further crackdown on religious extremism.

An Egyptian official, close to Sadat, remarked confidentially the other day that Mr. Sadat's time to leave the scene had probably come. At any rate Sadat had publically said he was considering retirement next year, after Israel completed its military withdrawal from the Sinai in April.

After tne Faheys, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Dean and my wife and I made the required climb up into the Great Pyramid, it was off to Geneva and back to London--with a hastily arranged stopover in Munich. Now what could that entail? Aha. More on that, and surrounding world events unfolding in Bonn, Geneva and London next time.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau