

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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TITO'S DEATH TO HASTEN U.S. OF EUROPE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

As I write, Friday noon, President Tito of Yugoslavia is at point of death. News reports say he has passed "point of no return." His death will SPEED UP the prophesied resurrection of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire" in Europe.

Josip Broz Tito is just two months older than I. He would be 88 May 25.

Russian troops have been massing near the Yugoslav border recently. This is stirring excitement and concern in Europe and in Washington. President Carter recently had a private telephone conversation with Tito. He has promised military aid, in case of Soviet invasion. Military aid in this case evidently means sending military arms and supplies.

Now just what will happen?

The whole world stands poised, now, for major climactic events, as things move much more swiftly toward the grand CLIMAX AT THE CLOSE OF THE AGE. The world crisis DEEPENS week by week. News is happening MUCH FASTER now. God is NO LONGER HOLDING WORLD EVENTS BACK.

The furor President Tito's imminency of death has caused in Europe and Washington means this: The Russian bear will stand poised, READY to invade Yugoslavia. It is vital and important to the USSR's plans for world domination to take possession of Yugoslavia. But because of the reaction AGAINST a Soviet strike into Yugoslavia right on the heels of their intervention in Afghanistan, I think Moscow will NOT invade Yugoslavia immediately, but stand poised and READY, thus provoking a WAR OF NERVES!

But neither the Kremlin nor the Administration in Washington remotely suspect what actually will happen.

The Red Army threat will SPEED UP even faster the plans now going on secretly between certain heads in Europe and the Vatican, to bring back to life the so-called HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, with the Pope riding "the Beast."

The Russian troops rushed into Afghanistan, the threat of a Red army invasion of Iran "to settle the confusion there," the threat of massed forces on the borders of Western Europe, all combine to arouse leaders in Europe--especially West Germany, France and Italy--to the point almost of consternation. They must move and they must now move FAST!

There will now be an effort to bring Yugoslavia into the Holy Roman Empire alliance! There will be strong pressure from the Vatican, in view of the Pope's visit to his native Poland, to bring Poland into the new United States of Europe. If Yugoslavia and Poland go in, then expect at least Rumania also to go in.

Prophecy says there will be TEN NATIONS (or groups of nations such as the Benelux), but it does not say WHICH nations. The WHICH nations is speculation, but current rapid-fire news happenings do give us significant clues.

Yugoslavia is a country made up of three former small nations, each with its own language. At the San Francisco Conference, summer of 1945, where the Charter for the UNITED NATIONS was drawn up, I had a long private interview with a former Prime Minister of one of these countries. He told me of how the new communist government took farms and businesses away from owners--the government suddenly owned EVERYTHING.

TIME IS NOW SHORT and rapidly GROWING SHORTER! We need to be sure GOD'S CHURCH IS 100% BACK ON THE TRACK, and READY for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to RULE ALL NATIONS--and bring PEACE, PROSPERITY, and ETERNAL SALVATION TO ALL NATIONS! Keep your congregations alert. We are NOT YET 100% back on the track of our GOD--although Christ has made tremendous progress the past year and a half in getting us back. Let's NOW renew our vigor, the intensity and earnestness of our prayers, our UNITED spirit of TOGETHERNESS! GOD IS WITH US!

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NASHVILLE CHURCH REJUVENATED

UNDER JAMES L. FRIDDLE

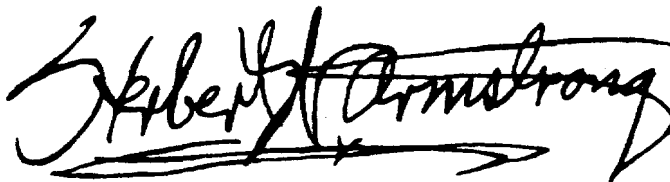
by Herbert W. Armstrong

One of the "trouble spots" in God's Church was the very important Church at Nashville, Tennessee. The ministry to this church had been very sadly neglected.

Mr. Jimmy Friddle was transferred from the San Diego church to Nashville some two or three months ago.

I have just received his report on the NEW LIFE that the new minister has generated there. My heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to Jimmy and Marge, who so willingly gave up their home in San Diego, leaving family members there, and accepting the challenge to go to Nashville.

Following is Mr. Friddle's heart-warming report.



REPORT ON CONDITION OF NASHVILLE CHURCH

As an older church area, one would expect the Nashville Worldwide Church of God to be well-established spiritually, but I have found the members hungering for spiritual food and fellowship. I have begun from scratch to retrench the Church.

The Church was meeting in an old labor hall in a very dangerous and dirty part of town. The men of the Church had to clean the hall of beer cans and trash every Sabbath before services. Some men had to sit outside the hall for security reasons during the Sabbath services. Even so, drunks still wandered into the hall at times and young boys ogled and followed the young girls of the Church.

Now the Church is meeting in the War Memorial Building in downtown Nashville next to the Tennessee capitol building. Rent is only one third of the cost of the labor hall. There is no security problem, and the hall is always clean with padded theatre seats. The members are overjoyed and very inspired with the new hall. We will be able to grow because the hall seats over 2000. The Hall has rooms for Y.E.S. every week without extra cost. We met there for the first time on Sabbath, February 2, 1980.

There has been very little action in the Nashville area for some time. I was told there has been no Spokesman Club in Nashville for about four years. When they had a Men's Club, one spoke only if he wanted to speak. No Leadership Training Club has been initiated for years. Fred Bailey did visit while he was in the area, but Tony Hammer visited very little. Fred Bailey conducted Bible Study twice a month, but Tony has not attended one for at least two years or more. Very few attended Bible studies. Tony did attend social functions but he did not arrange any of them. There have been only about three Deacons' meetings in the last two years. Y.O.U. was allowed to function more or less on its own with Mr. Gary Davis--a capable man--conducting Bible studies and all functions independently. Y.O.U. has need of the ministry behind it to give it encouragement and impetus.

We have had one Bible study since I have been here. One hundred twenty-eight attended the study. There were many questions and enthusiasm was very high. I am planning weekly Bible studies for the Church when we find a hall to meet in.

Sixteen attended the first Spokesman Club organization meeting, so we plan to have Spokesman Club every week on Thursday night. The leadership Training Class has thirteen members attending the second and fourth Tuesdays every month.

Everyone was very enthusiastic at the church dinner-dance January 25. We have planned a church talent show and bunko party this winter, plus three picnics this summer.

We have planned to have a Y.E.S. Teachers' Organization meeting twice but had to cancel because of inclement weather.

The Church has purchased a mimeograph machine so we can produce an Announcement Bulletin to be handed out every Sabbath.

Marge and I are having three or more families for dinner at our home every weekend that we are able. Hopefully we will be able to invite everyone in the Church.

Church attendance continues to increase and everyone is very enthusiastic about the Work of God. They really enjoy listening to and have made many favorable comments about the tapes from China by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Stanley Rader, and the Bible Study tapes Mr. Armstrong is giving on Romans. They are looking forward with anticipation to Mr. Armstrong's planned trips to other nations.

--Jimmy Friddle

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Church Visits Resumed

Church visits were resumed last Sabbath, February 9, with all the Florida churches as well as the Moultrie, Georgia church. Each of the visiting teams expressed Mr. Armstrong's deep concern and love for God's people and his desire to inform and update, and especially encourage and inspire them through these visits.

Preceding the sermon, the now-completed one-hour documentary about the State of California's attack upon God's Church was shown to each of the 13 churches that were visited. Each of the seven visiting teams reported tremendous enthusiasm and appreciation from the brethren. Dozens of comments were received expressing thanks to Mr. Armstrong for providing such encouraging and uplifting messages.

Following are the churches visited February 9th and the visiting teams:

| <u>Church</u> | <u>Visiting Team</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Panama City, Geneva | Richard Ames Aaron Dean |
| Moultrie | Richard Rice Fred Stevens |
| Gainesville | Leroy Neff Jim Snook |
| Orlando, Melbourne | Dean Blackwell Kevin Dean |
| St. Petersburg, Tampa | Raymond McNair Joe Kotora |
| Ft. Myers, Lakeland | Joe Tkach Mike Feazell |
| Miami, Ft. Lauderdale | Ellis LaRavia |

The next set of church visits will be on February 23 and will include the following churches: Montgomery, AL; Warner Robins, GA, Columbus, GA; Augusta, GA, Columbia, SC; Walterboro, SC; Fayetteville, NC, Florence, SC; Jacksonville, NC; Raleigh, NC.

News From Guyana

Paul Krautmann, our minister in Georgetown, Guyana was recently interviewed on a mid-morning radio program on GBS (Guyana Broadcasting Service--government-owned station in Georgetown).

He answered questions about the Church--its origins, its name and whether it was associated with others using the name Church of God. Also questions on Garner Ted Armstrong's relationships with the Church now, the receivership crisis and events surrounding the State of California's attack on the Church.

In the course of the questions, he was able to explain Mr. Armstrong's trips to see world leaders, mentioning the recent momentous trip to China and the possibility of a future one to Russia; our commission to preach the Gospel as a witness and many other facts about the Church. It was a very positive and friendly interview.

The World Tomorrow program has now been accepted by Radio Guyana every Tuesday at 10:05 p.m. This is a fine opening to us since it is a government-operated station in a socialist country.

The Church in Guyana has gained in exposure and increased circulation of the Plain Truth and booklets, especially since the Jonestown tragedy, which had no tangible negative effect on the Church at all; in fact, it seems the opposite!

Solomon Islands Update

Just east of Papua, New Guinea, is the Melanesian archipelago of the Solomon Islands--ten large islands and four groups of smaller ones, whose total area is 11,500 sq. miles (little larger than Maryland.)

To date, God has called seven members there, and these brethren pooled their resources and supported advertizing in the two weekly newspapers there, enabling the subscription list to grow to over 750--many in Honiara, the capital.

Now plans are being finalized for Mr. Chris Hunting, who administers the Work in Southeast Asia, to spend Passover and the first holy day of the Days of Unleavened Bread for the first time with the members there. He will also conduct two Bible Study Lectures to which the Plain Truth subscribers in the Solomons will be invited.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENTERING STUDENTSRegional Scholarships

It is time once again to begin thinking about nominees for the Regional Scholarship program for the 1980 fall semester at Ambassador College. Since this is the second year of the program, and the vast majority of students who were awarded this scholarship last year are doing very well, it is our plan to make it an ongoing program.

As you remember, this program is not designed simply to help students in financial need, but to provide a way to train future leaders in the Work.

The Regional Scholarship should be awarded to the most outstanding prospective Ambassador College student in each area. The person you nominate must have high character, leadership potential, be service-oriented, have a balanced personality, and a record of participation in various activities which might include Y.O.U., but is not limited to it. The nominee must be able to meet normal admission requirements of the College.

Each of you could be contacted by college-aged people in your area. If in your opinion someone in your area meets the requirements for the award, send a letter of recommendation to: the Regional Y.O.U. Coordinator if you are in the U.S.; the Area Coordinator if you are in Canada; or the Regional Director in all other international areas. Each of these men will then select the top applicant from those names submitted. The United States is the only area in which the Y.O.U. Regional Coordinator will be making the selection. Final selection must be made by June 30, 1980, so please plan accordingly. Although most applicants will probably come from the 18-24 year old age group, the Regional Scholarship is not confined to this group.

This award is a full-tuition scholarship for one year, worth \$1350, but is not available to those students who apply for the Biblical Diploma program unless they already possess an undergraduate degree and plan to stay at Ambassador for a minimum of two years. Recipients of a scholarship could apply the amount of their award toward the \$2000 minimum that students are required to have for their first year at Ambassador. After their first year, we will be able to implement other programs to assist them toward completion of their degree program, if they qualify.

Youth Opportunities United Scholarships

In addition to the Regional Scholarship, we would like to give you additional information about the Youth Opportunities United Scholarship. Both full-tuition and half-tuition scholarships are awarded for outstanding participation in the Y.O.U. program. Applicants for this scholarship should mail letters of recommendation from their church minister and local Y.O.U. coordinator to the Financial Aids Office. These letters should include all Y.O.U. activities participated in, including the Youth Conference and S.E.P., high school activities, and offices held in Y.O.U.

For both of these programs, one of the most important considerations is the ministerial evaluation. Your input is often the deciding factor on scholarship awards, since you know the applicant personally.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact me at (213) 577-5280.

--Ronald J. P. Wroblewski, Financial Aids Officer

MEDIA SERVICES UPDATE

We are currently finishing production on Mr. Armstrong's latest "World Tomorrow" television program, the first of a series on the "1980s in Prophecy." In his series Mr. Armstrong previews the coming decade through the perspective of Bible prophecy, with the initial program highlighting his recent trip to Peking. This program includes the first public showing of film footage taken during Mr. Armstrong's recent trip to China.

The one-hour television special "The First Amendment: Church vs. State," has already drawn a very positive response from its initial California airings. Overall, the telephone calls from the TV special were very positive. Over 95 percent were first-time callers. We received calls from several church groups, including the main Seventh Day Adventist Church in the Los Angeles area. Several college professors also called: Dr. Robert S. McBirnie who teaches a class in "Church vs. State Relations" at a graduate school in Long Beach, and Bruce Wilson from the Political Science Department at Cal Poly University, who teaches a class on "First Amendment Rights."

Listed below are some of the comments we received:

Enjoyed the program and would like to thank you for the service rendered to other churches.

Didn't know about this, but will tell my church members and hope you win the case.

You did an excellent job. Keep up the work!

Would like to know how I can help you financially.

Thought that this was a story and didn't realize it was something really happening to you. Enjoyed the program.

One lady who is a Baptist and doesn't believe our doctrines said, "Glad to see the church has enough backing to stand up to the State...enjoyed the program and I hope that you will air a follow-up program in the Los Angeles area."

Already in the planning stage is a one-half hour follow-up to the receiver-ship program. The new program will zero in on the illegality of the January 2nd meeting in Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jerry Pacht's chambers and the subsequent destructive performance of the Receiver, ex-Judge Steven Weisman.

Perhaps the most exciting news for local congregations is the planned introduction of a series of Church production films designed as aids for local Bible Studies and public Bible Lecture series. We in Media Services are working very closely with Mr. Tkach and Mr. John Halford on these projects.

The first film brings to life the Book of Amos. These productions are designed to assist the local ministry in stimulating their congregations with inspirational and educational material for specific Bible Studies.

We are planning to have multiple films available at the June ministerial conference. More detailed information will be included in future Pastor General's Reports.

--Larry Omasta

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's mail comments include several miraculous healings, support of the Church regarding the current legal battle, and encouraging notes from viewers of The WORLD TOMORROW telecast.

Examples of God's Healing Power

I was tried all summer. The trouble seemed to be in my bowels. I went to the doctor and immediately he put me in the hospital. I was there for two days for tests. They definitely found something and told my husband but wouldn't tell me. They sent me home and I was to drink or eat nothing but clear liquids for three days.

In the meantime, I went to Sabbath services and was anointed by our minister. I wasn't sure for what. So I asked God to take away the evil thing in my bowels.

After three days of clear liquids, I was back in the hospital for who knows what? They ran twenty-five or more tests and x-rays on me. Finally the doctor said, "We can't find the malignant tumor that was there before." I saw such a look of relief on my husband's face. When I left the hospital, I felt I had wings on my feet.

--Mrs. Joyce Marshall (Ashcamp, KY)

A member from Gadsden, Alabama had dropped a .357 magnum revolver and it went off when it hit the ground. The bullet traveled up through his leg and into his vital organs. Mr. Winner (minister) anointed him at the hospital when he arrived and before the member was examined by doctors.

The hole where the bullet entered could be seen. The member apparently felt it go up into his organs. But, when the doctors came to examine him, no trace of the bullet could be found and no apparent damage. Yet, apart from passing a little blood in the urine, the member felt fine and left the hospital the next day. No sign of the exit of the bullet was found. It had apparently "disappeared."

--Ian Willis (Pasadena, CA)

Our little girl fell off a horse and hit her head, receiving a severe brain concussion. We rushed her to the hospital. With her was her regular doctor, a brain specialist and a couple of other doctors. She had some very severe convulsions. They did all they could do for her. We asked the minister of God's Church to anoint her, even though the doctors said she might die or live to be a vegetable. She had one chance in a million of being a normal child with no brain damage.

After being anointed, our little girl came through knowing everything. She had a complete miracle. The doctors all said it was a divine healing, a real miracle.

--Mrs. Merrit Bowman (Cumberland, MD)

I wrote you about my wife's having a stroke on August 2nd. She was in the hospital 115 days and they said I would not take her out alive.

I asked you for an anointed cloth and prayed for her. Well, we have had her home four weeks today."

--Arthur Lutz (Newfoundland, PA)

Church Supported in No Uncertain Terms!

At this time, I can only convey to you my intense outrage and indignation at the mere suggestion that you or any other Church leader would be held in contempt of court and carted off to jail. I am infuriated by even the hint of such an audacious expression of contempt for God and His Apostle and Church. Therefore, I want you and all concerned to know that I intend to do all that I can to support you and the Church in this time of war. I will not desert.

--William Walker (University, MS)

There are some interesting parallels in the Old Testament in I Samuel 4 through 7, where the Philistines captured the Ark. They kept the Ark seven months. The receiver had control seven weeks. But, the Philistines continued to oppress Israel for 20 years until Israel finally put away their other gods and sought the Lord only. Then, God gave them a great victory. Isn't our best defense against the California Attorney General to put away "other gods" and seek the Lord only?

--Tom and Carol Wise (Denver, CO)

About the court case...I think one of the ladies in the Church at Montgomery (Mrs. Minnie Hopkins) summed up the way the majority of the Church feel. She said, "If they put any of our Church brethren in jail, I am just going to get me a bus ticket and go out there and go to jail with them."

--Mrs. Cecil Walters (Camp Hill, AL)

The enclosed money is my tithe to the Worldwide Church of God to be used in any manner they feel that it is needed. I pay taxes to the State and no governor has ever notified me as to how it was spent. I pay tithes to the Church and ask not how it is spent. The taxes I must pay by man's law. Why should I not tithe and obey God's law?

--Mrs. A. M. Peel, Sr. (Jessup, GA)

Telecast Reaches Out With Gospel Message

My family enjoys your television program on channel 5 every Sunday morning very much. We find that the programs give more and more answers to questions we have regarding the Bible which other religions and religious leaders do not answer for us. We have followed, and will continue to follow, the Church, through the TV programs and literature.

--James Fincher (Arlington, VA)

The program this morning over KTVU Oakland, CA was one of the best I have watched and listened to. It was very explanatory to people, if they were watching, to know what the Worldwide Church of God is all about.

--Elizabeth Myers (Oakland, CA)

Your show each Sunday renews my spirit because you speak the Word. In my church, a Catholic one, it is the same each week. But, I still go.

--Cathy Kudrick (Bradford, RI)

After watching your current interview-style TV series, which includes very professional coverage of the ongoing Church vs State controversy, one can't help but begin pulsating, double time, realizing that we have a part in it. The program reflects a distinct refinement of taste and value, representing total respect and concern for the viewers' intellectual welfare.

--Halvor Halvorsen (Albany, NY)

We enjoy your Sunday sermons and try never to miss them. You are so explanatory and the message is great. You surely are an ambassador of God."

--Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bohl (Plymouth, MI)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE GOLDEN "ECU" AND THE "CHUNNEL": A couple of behind-the-scenes "sleeper" issues deserve mention this week. First, the steep run-up in gold prices has encouraged gold producing countries other than South Africa (suppliers of the hot-selling Krugerrand) to join the one-ounce gold coin rush. Notable examples are similar coins from Canada and Australia. Now the Common Market is entering the gold coin competition as well. The South African news magazine To The Point, in its January 18, 1980 edition, reports:

"Highly important, but little publicised was the announcement recently that the European Economic Community (EEC) would issue a gold coin, the ECU (pronounced Eh-Cue), marking the first coined money of the European Monetary System and the EEC.



The Krugerrand (left) and the ECU

"The coin will be issued by the express authority of the Parliament of Europe, to be struck in proof-like condition by the Paris mint in 92% fine gold. According to latest reports, the ECU is now the standard unit of exchange among central banks of Europe as a bookkeeping entry. As such an entry, it is backed by the participating countries' gold reserves--a total of 3150 tons of gold, valued at \$34,000 million."

Even though ECU is an acronym for European Currency Unit, it is significant that there was an earlier "Ecu"--the French gold or silver coin of that name, used from 1266 to 1803. We've received no other information regarding this development, but we'll keep looking.

"Chunnel" Project Nears Approval

Another development deserves considerably more attention. According to a report published in the January 27, 1980 Daily Telegraph, the British government is to soon approve the building of a tunnel beneath the English Channel between Britain and France. The on-again-off-again project is expected to cost approximately \$1-1/2 billion dollars and it will be financed by private capital.

"Money from the Common Market may also be available," reports the Telegraph's industrial correspondent. "This would go a long way to meet government objections to the size of Britain's contribution to the EEC. The scheme, which has been put forward jointly by British Rail and French Railways will consist of a single rail tunnel with a smaller service tunnel alongside. The scheme could be operating by 1988."

Agreement from the French government is to be held up until formal announcement is made by British governmental officials. The French were left hanging on a limb when the previous Labour government cancelled an earlier tunnel attempt in 1975--after digging had already begun a mile-and-a-half at both the English and French sides entrances.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, has had a series of successful meetings with European Community officials and members of the European Parliament. Mr. Parker has been an enthusiastic backer of the tunnel project. "Let us seize the opportunity this time," he says.

Under the plan five trains an hour would run between London and Paris and Brussels with a maximum of 120 trains a day. The journey to Paris would take four hours and 30 minutes, with the Brussels run ten minutes shorter. It is estimated that there would be 6 million passengers in the first year. A yearly growth of between 2-1/2 and 3 percent is expected. Eight million tons of freight a year are also expected to be handled. (The tunnel could eliminate the need to expand London's already overcrowded Heathrow Airport.)

The cost of the project is to be kept down by initially constructing only a single track rail tunnel. (The 1975 plan consisted of two tunnels, with traffic in each direction.) Traffic will be run in "flights" with several trains going in the same direction before the return journeys are made. In case of emergency or breakdown of a train, rescue crews or engineers will be able to reach the spot using the smaller service tunnel running alongside.

The project still faces one more hurdle. If the Common Market Commission decides to contribute an estimated 20% of the cost, all the individual EEC countries will have to approve the outlay. Some Common Market countries who would not benefit as directly as would Britain, France and Belgium might object. Shipping and airline interests might object. A return [round-trip] London-Paris fare is projected at about \$45-50. Present air fares are over twice to four times as high.) Nevertheless, as another Telegraph dispatch (October 11, 1979) reported:

"The European Commission has always been keen on the tunnel. It could be the most striking example of a Community project designed to eliminate natural barriers between EEC countries."

But....the natural barrier of the English Channel has been a formidable factor in Britain's national power, affording protection for the British peoples. What will happen with its partial disappearance? Could the "chunnel" be used someday for more sinister purposes? This is what The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, August 1966, p. 48, reported concerning the announcement of a new tunnel scheme (the same one abandoned in 1975):

"Britain and France have at last agreed to build a tunnel under the English Channel!.... Businessmen and ambitious generals alike have dreamed of such a tunnel since the days of Napoleon.

"In 1880, a French-English combine actually started digging. But work was stopped after nearly two miles of the tunnel had been excavated. The project was revived in 1890, but to no avail. Attempts in 1906 and 1914 again proved fruitless. Each time plans were stopped cold by the British War Office. England's top generals repeatedly vetoed the scheme as a peril to Britain's island security. In today's nuclear age, however, such fears have vanished. But officials don't see the hidden danger....

"God promised our countries fantastic national wealth. He promised protection from our enemies (Deut. 28:7). He settled us behind protective geographical barriers. The United States has been blessed with two ocean frontiers. The British Isles have been separated from the Continent by the choppy waters of the Channel. Even Hitler's massive air attacks in World War II couldn't subjugate Britain.

"But God is about to breach the Channel gap...Unless we repent, one third of our peoples--including millions of British--will die in nuclear warfare at the hands of a resurrected Roman Empire in Europe. After that, another third will be carried off into captivity (Ezek. 5:12). But how? The English Channel tunnel may well prove to be the primary expulsion route taken by millions of hapless Britons. Transported into slavery in jammed railway cars with the usual "German efficiency"!... Natural ally France will stand idly by, doing nothing to help! Britain's days of "splendid isolation" are numbered.

One channel tunnel project after another has fizzled down through the ages. But at last, Britain's protective moat looks like it is about to be breached.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau