

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Last week we conducted the 32nd commencement exercise of Ambassador College. According to established tradition, graduation exercises were held in the Lower Gardens of Ambassador College, and we had the largest attendance at these commencement exercises since the 1978 graduation.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder and chancellor of the College, gave the commencement address which he entitled "Education in the World Tomorrow." This year Mr. Armstrong stood as he gave the address and came across very powerfully. Mr. Armstrong began his address by saying: "Time is running out on this civilization. Nuclear World War III and Armageddon are coming closer day by day...."

Mr. Armstrong gave a brief history of how man began going astray. The first man and woman in Eden rejected God's way--His education--and turned to their own ways. Cut off from God, they and their descendants were only able to learn about things, but were not able to truly understand how to deal with their fellowmen or with their Creator. Then Mr. Armstrong gave a brief account of how modern education began and how it developed over the past 2,500 years.

After debunking evolution and revealing that he had proved that there had to be a Creator who was the source of the material creation, Mr. Armstrong said: "The Bible is the Textbook--the history, the textbook and the prophecy of that claim of special creation and of a Creator God."

Later, the Chancellor pointed out that "the Spirit of God imparts that which will develop character in man. Now if God is reproducing Himself," continued Mr. Armstrong, "He has to reproduce character because that's what God is--holy, righteous, perfect character; perfect spiritual character. I have defined character in many ways. But character is simply the right knowledge plus the right attitude, plus the right action of doing the right thing, the right way. And it all gets down to attitudes.

"But," said Mr. Armstrong, "education has been essentially materialistic. They have not known the true values. And the true values, after all, are spiritual values...." The following longer quotes from Mr. Armstrong's address are especially interesting with regard to education in the World Tomorrow:

Now what is going to be the education then of the future? Ambassador College is a college that we have been calling God's College. Now very frankly, I don't think it's a hundred percent God's College. It's as near God's College as He has given us to see. But when Jesus Christ comes to rule this world, I think He's going to note things that haven't been revealed to us. And I

don't think that we are the perfect college of the future, but we're a forerunner to it. And we're as near on that track as we know how to be. And this is a college that has been recapturing the true values. We haven't gotten them all. We don't profess to have received them all. But in a world that has gone the wrong way and is in trouble, we have begun to find some of the causes, some of the reasons and some of the ways that make for peace and for happiness.

The education of the future...will begin in the home and in the cradle. Parents will have to learn first how to teach infants in the first months of their lives, because infants are being taught by an invisible Satan self-centeredness and selfishness....In the World Tomorrow, education will begin in the cradle.

I think there will be education in classrooms in the World Tomorrow. And I think we're on the track here at Ambassador College of the kind of education it will be. But I think it will be refined and improved very greatly over what we have been able to do here. We have done the best that God has revealed to us, as far as He's seen fit to reveal, and as far as we have seen. We're sending this graduating class out into the world. And as Christ said, they are the light of the world, and that they should let their light shine that others may see their good works.

Before closing his address, Chancellor Armstrong praised the A.C. students for their good example in the ACEPT program in Thailand (which, said he, had come to the notice of the King), and he also spoke highly of the Big Dig at Jerusalem.

We've sent students every summer for the archaeological project in Jerusalem. Many other students come there, but our students stand out. Their light does shine. They're learning a better way of life. They work harder. They're more conscientious.... [But] there are people that just hate this institution! They hate Ambassador College! But our light does shine and it does do good....

Near the conclusion of his address, Mr. Armstrong mentioned that, in the not-too-distant future, "We're all going to have a different kind of education."

God provided us with perfect weather for this 32nd commencement exercise. Those present included relatives and visiting ministers and their wives in on the MRP. We also had quite a number of guests and friends of the College in attendance.

Overall, I felt this was the most inspiring commencement I have ever attended. It was certainly good to see Mr. Armstrong feeling fine and delivering such a powerful address.

The next morning (Thursday, the 20th), Mr. Armstrong and his party left Burbank Airport at 10:00 a.m. for London.

The last week or so of college is always a very busy time. And even though the semester is now over, we are still very busy. Just this morning a

number of us had a long meeting in order to go over the grades and other pertinent information regarding the students who we felt might not be able to continue in college next year. We have a list of about 14 who will have to be dropped.

Then on the Sunday following graduation I had three weddings at which to officiate. I think this must be some kind of a record for the number of weddings performed in a single day.

Mr. Richard F. Ames is including in this PGR [see page 6] an updated account of the numbers of applicants we have accepted to Ambassador College (Pasadena) for the coming year. We have pretty well closed our acceptance door for the 1982-83 College year. We may, however, be able to admit just a very few more.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Australia Both the field ministry and our office staff report an extremely active month of April. The number of letters received last month was the third highest since the inception of the Work in this area of the world, resulting in a 40% increase in the number of booklets and articles mailed out over April last year. Unfortunately, postal charges for the category in which booklets are mailed also went up 22-33% last month.

There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of new people requesting personal contact with the Church--up 400% over the first four months in 1981. A number of pastors are reporting new faces at services and are encouraged by the new PM activity.

However, pressure is still being put on our budget and cash flow. Our year-to-date income now stands at a 10% increase. The economic reasons for this was pinpointed in a recent issue of the AUSTRALIAN (newspaper) which talks about the nation being in the "depths of a severe economic recession" and refers to the "sharp reduction in the spending power of the average Australian" over the past twelve months. A careful appraisal of our budget has enabled us to adjust our expenditure in a number of areas without seriously affecting the Great Commission.

For some months we have been closely monitoring our radio coverage. In the sixty-five weeks we've been on country radio in Australia, the cost-per-response has been mounting to the point where it would shortly become difficult to justify remaining on certain stations. Responses from seventeen stations have been extremely low and we have instructed our advertising agent to cancel them. However, while we have cut out some unproductive radio stations, we have added other stations.

Though the number of radio stations carrying the broadcast has decreased, the number of broadcasts per week and the population coverage has actually increased. In fact, we are now broadcasting to twice the number of people than we were before the cuts were made and new stations added. These adjustments have effectively helped in reducing our expenditure without reducing our effectiveness in preaching the Gospel via the radio broadcast.

One of the stations recently added is 3GL, Geelong, a station clearly heard by most of the city of Melbourne. This is the very first open door we've had to Melbourne for preaching the Gospel in years.

We are continuing to maintain our television coverage, airing The WORLD TOMORROW telecast over 25 stations throughout Australia. Many who write to us after viewing the telecast comment on how much they have profited from the programme.

Asia Reports reaching our office here in Australia from Asia are most encouraging. Mr. Colin Kelly, our minister responsible for the Singapore and Malaysian areas, is being run off his feet with new visit requests. He baptized four new members this month.

Mr. Bill Sidney, our Financial Services Manager, reported that his recent trip to the Solomon Islands during the Days of Unleavened Bread resulted in four baptisms and an increase in PM's from four to thirteen. One of those baptized is a village chieftain. We now have thirteen members in the Solomon Islands.

God's intervention in the lives of His people in that area of the world was clearly evident when a cyclone hit the Island of Rononga leaving only two houses standing. One belonged to a member of God's Church and the other belonged to the member's uncle who was baptized by Mr. Sidney about two weeks later.

While in the Solomon Islands, Mr. Sidney conducted two PLAIN TRUTH lectures for subscribers there and had discussions with the Solomon Islands Radio Station Manager concerning The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast. The radio station manager is very favourable towards us, but our request to air the programme has to be referred to the S.I.C.A. (Solomon Islands Christian Association) for their comment. It will be about three months before we know the outcome.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

It has been four days since we arrived home from Refresher #4, but we are still on a "high" from all the benefits we received while there. Out here in San Antonio, Texas we live in an atmosphere of potholed-streets, partially-fenced-in junk yards, unkempt landscaping, scoured buildings, diseased and dying trees and gloomy faces. Marian and I deeply appreciated the opportunity to come to the headquarters of God's Work and College and to again taste with all our senses a sampling of the World Tomorrow! As Christ said, "Believe me for the Work's sake." Anyone who can see will see the fruits of one man who yielded to God. We yearn for the time when the whole world will look like one big Ambassador College!

Thank you also for the refreshing and helpful instructions from ALL who sacrificed time from their other responsibilities. Now that the Church is "on track" we can move ahead with increasing momentum.

We appreciated the accommodations, the free phone calls, excellent food (I brought back one and one-half extra pounds with me), the banquets and use of the athletic facilities. We certainly feel we were treated royally!

Both Marian and I feel energized to certainly hold up Mr. Armstrong's hands all the more in order to complete this end-time Work!

Greg and Marian Sargent

Mr. Joseph Tkach:

Jannice and I wish to express our sincere thanks to the capable staff members who teach at the Refreshing Program. We especially thank Mr. Herbert Armstrong for guiding them. The program is such a marvelous blessing and opportunity for all of us in the ministry. God has certainly given us meat in due season, and through it the entire Church is being nourished.

Some have commented on the unity they see when they come to headquarters, as compared to the disunity of a few years ago. After being here for three years, I have seen a major transition take place. Mr. Armstrong moved back and is firmly in the driver's seat. And oh, how God has been blessing His entire Work! Every aspect of the Work is unified and growing by leaps and bounds.

Thanks again, staff.

Curtis and Jannice May

Mr. Joe Tkach:

My wife and I wish to express our grateful thanks for a truly inspiring Refreshing Programme. What a blessing to spend time on God's beautiful headquarters campus in an atmosphere of loyalty, harmony and cooperation, and to receive the guidance of those who are helping, at close quarters, to hold up the arms of the Apostle.

God bless you all in your efforts to share the weight of responsibility placed on Mr. Armstrong's shoulders. I'm sure Mr. Armstrong is deeply moved by your loyalty and diligence as indeed were we.

Please pass on our gratitude to all those who helped to make the programme such a resounding success. And please let Mr. Armstrong know that we and our churches are praying for him daily.

David and Carol Stirk

Mr. Tkach:

Just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to visit the college. This was my first trip to California and it meant a lot to me.

Being able to be a part of the lectures each day and to walk the campus grounds was a dream come true!

Thanks to all of you who made that opportunity available to us.
It truly was exciting!

Beverly Kubik

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

ADMISSIONS UPDATE FROM A.C. PASADENA

With so many qualified applicants applying to Ambassador College this year, the Admissions Committees have had a very challenging responsibility in selecting students for admission for the 1982-83 college year. Over 2,100 applications were requested from the two campuses with 760 applications actually being mailed back to the Pasadena campus and 375 being mailed back to the Big Sandy campus.

Of the 760 applicants, Pasadena was able to accept 127 single students (plus an additional 14 married students). This larger number of accepts (more than the 40 to 50 originally estimated) became possible when the Chancellor, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, made two decisions on March 8th of this year: 1) he approved the transfer of 50 Pasadena freshmen to Big Sandy for their sophomore year, and 2) he approved an increase of bed space on campus to 500 from the current 472.

Big Sandy will be able to have a freshmen class of approximately 165 because their total enrollment will increase from 192 to approximately 300 this fall.

Needs of the International Areas

The International Regional Directors have expressed the need for more laborers to be trained for the rapid growth in the international areas of God's Work. Therefore, they have recommended specific applicants. The time is coming when the borders of some countries will be closed, making it necessary to have native ministers who have been trained at Ambassador.

The Big Sandy campus has not yet received approval from the Department of Immigration for enrolling international students. Therefore, the Pasadena campus is giving extra consideration this year to the international needs of God's Work.

A summary of students accepted to the Pasadena campus is shown below:

AMBASSADOR APPLICANTS ACCEPTED
TO PASADENA

	<u>SINGLE</u>		<u>MARRIED</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
U.S.	47	27	6	-
Canada	10	9	2	-
Other				
Countries	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Sub Total	75	52 = 127	11	3 = 14

GRAND TOTAL 141

In addition to the 141 students summarized above, Mr. Armstrong has approved the admission of two ministers from the Philippines for a year of

training at Ambassador. One elder from Malaysia and one elder from New York (recommended by the Spanish language Regional Director) will also be receiving one year of education at Ambassador.

Evaluation of Applicants

The Pasadena Admissions Committee consists of seven members. In addition, Mr. John Halford reviews all the international applications. Each application is reviewed individually by at least five members of the committee, and then later discussed in a review session by the committee. A significant number of "super accepts" whose applications were complete were accepted as early as January. Other "acceptable" applications were held for comparison with later applicants who met the March 1st application deadline.

The selection was difficult. On May 6th, for example, when the Pasadena Admissions Committee met for review session #8, we had a list of 133 qualified women applicants from which we could accept only 15. So you can see that the answer to the question, "Why wasn't I accepted to Ambassador this year?", in many cases is simply, "We didn't have the space." The Big Sandy Admissions Committee did, however, accept 15 women earlier (March 29th) from this same list when they visited Pasadena. Big Sandy also accepted 19 men from the Pasadena pool of applicants at that time, and has just accepted an additional 22 men this week (as of May 26) from the smaller group of 46 "acceptable" male applicants for whom Pasadena had no space. Ambassador traditionally receives many more qualified applications from women than men. Your help as ministers in encouraging promising masculine applicants toward Ambassador is much appreciated!

Giving Direction to Teens

Ambassador College is very pleased with the support and enthusiasm in the local Church areas as reflected in the growing number of qualified applicants. Teens who are interested in applying to Ambassador should be encouraged to prepare academically, financially and socially with service and leadership involvement in their local Churches. They should be encouraged to apply early (i.e. December or January preceding the fall semester for which they are applying) and register for an early Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) in November, December or January. S.A.T. scores take about six weeks to arrive.

There will be a large number of disappointed applicants each year who cannot be accepted because of space limitations or because they are not qualified. The Church pastor can help immensely by giving encouragement and direction to teens to have alternate plans when they apply to Ambassador. To just "wait" year after year for a possible opening can lead to frustration and depression.

Pastors can help by encouraging high school graduates to follow Mr. Armstrong's example of "choosing a vocation." Developing one's talents and skills through on-the-job training, vocational education or varied work experience will be a step in the right direction. Mr. Armstrong never attended Ambassador College, but by applying the seven laws of success in varied work experiences and personal study, he has found the way to an abundant life, enriched the lives of many millions and allowed God to use him as a very effective instrument in fulfilling His purpose on earth.

Dr. David Albert, Director of Career Services at Ambassador, gives this advice to young people: "One of the best things you can begin doing in your self-education course is to become as familiar as possible with the three-step job-seeking approach that Mr. Armstrong employed and that Mr. Richard Bowles describes in WHAT COLOR IS YOUR PARACHUTE?"

Increasingly, Ambassador College appears to be becoming more of a "calling" for young people with more-than-average leadership potential. Space is very limited. Yet, worldwide there are about 2,800 Church teens graduating from high school each year. You can be encouraging and motivating them to develop their talents, skills and potential.

The fall class should be a most interesting and qualified group with 82 students from the U.S., 21 students from Canada and 40 students from the following areas: Australia, England, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Guinea, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania and Thailand.

We are looking forward to a very successful 1982-83 college year under the direction of the Great Educator, Jesus Christ, Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong and Deputy Chancellor, Raymond F. McNair.

Thank you for your prayers and support of Ambassador College and your part in developing the potential of the youth in God's Church.

--Richard F. Ames, Director of Admissions, Pasadena

FROM PUBLISHING SERVICES

Prestigious PT Display Space Opens Up

The World Trade Center in New York, which has 5.3 million people pass through it each month, has finally opened up to The PLAIN TRUTH distribution. Because advertising space in this prestigious location is so much in demand, we had been told we would have to wait years. Then just last week we received a call from New York. We were told that a display island had unexpectedly become available and were asked if we were still interested. We jumped at the chance and reserved the space. This will bring the total number of display islands in New York to three. The display island in Grand Central Station distributes 2,500 PT's per month, and the display island in Pennsylvania Station distributes 3,750 copies. It is expected that we will distribute 5,000-7,500 PT's per month at the new location in the World Trade Center.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

Mail and Telephone Response Continues Very High

As summer approaches, we are pleased to report continued growth in mail and telephone response. The year-to-date mail response increase over the same period last year is now 56 percent. And the total number of phone calls (including responses to the telecast and broadcast, literature requests, etc.) stands at a year-to-date increase of 147 percent!

May PT Response

Readers are responding favorably to the May issue of The PLAIN TRUTH which mainly featured articles on the problems of alcohol and drugs. Some are requesting additional copies of the magazine and multiple copies of our available literature on the subject. Below is a letter received from a counselor dealing with the problems of alcohol and drug abuse.

I would like to compliment you on the May issue of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Being an alcoholism and drug abuse counselor in a rural Iowa county, I have a clear picture of the impact of alcoholism and drug abuse in people's lives.

I would be interested in obtaining additional copies of the May issue for me to take to public speaking events I have around the county. About 200 issues would be helpful. In addition, I'd like an equal number of the article reprint, "Alcohol and Drugs: Modern Social Curses."

It is my hope that sometime in the future the articles in the May issue, and perhaps all your past articles on alcohol and drug abuse, could be put into one booklet.

T.S. (Waverly, IA)

Interesting Phone Comments About the Telecast

As viewers call in and request literature offered on The WORLD TOMORROW telecast, many comment about the quality of the program. Some are recognizing that Mr. Armstrong is preaching the truth--unlike other ministers. Below are a few of the phone comments received by our operators:

This man is making sense! I have been a Baptist all my life and now I'm finding some of the beliefs I have been taught hard to believe. The program yesterday about the true Gospel was wonderful. Mr. Armstrong uses the Bible to illustrate, so it must be true! Tell him to keep up the good work!

H.W. (Kernersville, NC)

Finally someone is getting down to what is really in the Bible. Mr. Armstrong is fantastic. I love listening to him. My church is just a social club--big fun time. I am not learning what I should know.

K.H. (Baltimore, MD)

I never miss the program. It is so true--each scripture comes alive. I quit other churches because they didn't teach the truth.

P.S. (Los Angeles, CA)

I am nearing 60 and am probably one of the worst sinners in the world. I've never paid attention to any of the preachers before, but I heard Mr. Armstrong and he makes sense. His message really hit me in the heart! I can't wait to read the literature. Tell Mr. Armstrong that he really knows what he is talking about and is telling us what we need to hear!

Mr. McD. (Sapulpa, OK)

I thoroughly enjoy Mr. Armstrong! I can't believe how much sense he makes. Everyone else just gives you a bunch of gobbledygook. He really makes sense.

B.S. (Goose Creek, SC)

I really enjoy listening to him. The program is so much better than all the other junk on TV. I am a kindergarten teacher at a "Christian" school and I like to hear what he has to say. I think it is important to know what's going on so I can pass it on to the children.

M.B. (San Jacinto, CA)

I really enjoy the preacher--no, he isn't a preacher. He is a teacher.

R.A. (Rockville, NY)

I am so thrilled with the program--other ministers don't say those things.

Mr. M. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Mr. Armstrong explained some things to me that I have read all my life but never understood. He really understands the Bible.

R.S. (Las Vegas, NV)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BRITAIN'S "TRIAL BY FIRE" IN THE ICY SOUTH ATLANTIC

DATELINE LONDON (May 27, 1982): There could be no more newsworthy time to be in Britain than right now. In the South Atlantic, the 100 vessel British task force is engaged in a full-fledged, yet, as in Vietnam, undeclared war with a surprisingly tough foe. How long can Britain afford to lose expensive destroyers, frigates and support vessels against the wave after wave of Argentine fighter bombers? Of course Buenos Aires is hurting too, with a steadily shrinking supply of Mirages and Skyhawks--about four dozen fixed-wing aircraft destroyed to date--to say nothing of its first-line pilots.

Simultaneously, across the English Channel "in Europe" (as most Britons view their geographical setting) the British are engaged in another battle--an economic trench war with the Germans and the French mainly--over the size of London's contribution to the Common Market budget. Result: a one-year "half-a-loaf" truce which really doesn't satisfy Britain, but is apparently the best that can be done under the circumstances. (Britain will still have to pay in \$750 million more to the E.C. budget than she receives in benefits.)

Into this cauldron, ironically, steps this world's "apostle of peace" Pope John Paul II. After first threatening to postpone his scheduled May 28-June 2 trip to Britain because of the worsening Falklands crisis, the Pope cleverly devised a solution intended to reduce offense to Latin America's 300 million Roman Catholics: He would come to Britain, he said, if the cardinals in the U.K. advised him to come. They did, of course; he comes Friday. To balance off his visit to Britain the Pope will make an urgent two-day trip to Argentina on June 11 and 12 (he has already scheduled a much longer trip to South America sometime next year).

From "Gung Ho" Optimism to Growing Doubts

The biggest story of all, of course, is the Falklands War. Only two days ago, after British commandoes successfully established a beachhead on East Falklands, the British press was confidently predicting an early end to the war. "Victory in One Week" shouted the page one headline in the May 24th DAILY MAIL; "Next Stop Port Stanley" exclaimed the DAILY EXPRESS. Even the more reserved DAILY TELEGRAPH headlined its May 25th lead editorial "After We Win."

But then the "Argies" came striking back, hard. The British frigates Ardent and Antelope exploded in spectacular fireballs after being bombed. On May 25th (Argentina's national day) the destroyer HMS Coventry--sister ship to the HMS Sheffield, destroyed earlier in the conflict--sunk after being hit by what newsmen in San Carlos Bay called a "kamikaze" wave of low-flying fighter bombers. One hour later, the container ship Atlantic Conveyor (which had transported additional Sea Harrier jets to the task force) was hit by two deadly Exocet missiles and abandoned. This time the headline on page 1 of the May 27 SUN screamed in 3-inch letters, "OUR DARKEST HOUR."

There is little doubt that the two Super Etendard jets, each carrying one Exocet missile and refueled in mid-flight to extend their range, were really after a bigger fish--one of the British carriers, probably the Invincible. But fortunately for the British (despite the loss of precious cargo) the planes' radar screens could not distinguish between the carrier and the Conveyor, both about the same size and tonnage.

"We knew we had scored a hit," a military spokesman in Buenos Aires allegedly told a British reporter, "and thought at first that it really was the Invincible with your little Prince [Prince Andrew] on board. It would have been an important victory for us on our national Revolution day."

Nevertheless, the vulnerability of Britain's Navy has been rather rudely exposed. Budgetary cost-cutting by the Navy, along with a plain lack of vision over what kind of naval force was needed, have been largely responsible for the remarkable losses suffered so far. The Naval Editor of DEFENSE MAGAZINE, Anthony Preston wrote an article for the May 25 DAILY MAIL entitled "Blunders That Left Our Ships in Peril." Here are some excerpts:

There is, for every political decision, a moment of truth. And for many of the decisions made in the name of Britain's defence in the past 16 years that moment has arrived in the waters off the Falklands.

Amid the general euphoria over the stories of success, there has been the appalling news of the losses at sea. First, the Sheffield, then, at the weekend, the Ardent, and now the Antelope. One thing has been common in each case: fire raging out of control through the ships....The problem is that aluminium is light and melts at a much lower temperature than steel....The Type 21 frigates in the Falklands, which include both the Ardent and the Antelope, have aluminium superstructures.

The basic problem, summarizes Preston, is that the aluminium (aluminum in the U.S.) super-structured frigates represented a concession by the British

ship-builders to the principal buyers of these kind of ships--Third World admirals. These customers wanted a lighter super-structure to support all the "top weight" they demanded, meaning highly visible weapons systems on deck, rather than invisible electronics below deck. They were primarily interested in showing off fire power to neighboring countries. In effect, the British Navy bought these compromised ships as production line "run-ons" rather than customizing them to meet its own needs. Mr. Preston continues about the aluminium problem, and concludes by pointing out other faulty strategy.

The signs that aluminium is an unacceptable fire hazard have, of course, been plain to see for some time. For example, [in 1977 on the HMS Amazon] an operations room fire melted ladderways and bulkheads. It is reported that in some instances the heat-resistant paint survived as two outside layers, whereas the aluminium between had melted. Aluminium's melting point in fact is 660 degrees, compared to steel's 1500 degrees C. If there's a fire, it therefore just keeps melting, which would never happen with steel.

If that has been a blunder of appalling dimensions, other political decisions made 16 years ago have proved as short-sighted. Perhaps the most crucial decision was the 1966 Defence Review when Mr. Denis Healey decided to rob the Royal Navy of its next generation of aircraft carriers. This means that the Navy no longer has Phantom interceptors which would have provided a fully effective air defence over the Falklands. Even more crucial was the loss of the Gannet airborne early warning aircraft.

Even if the Gannet squadrons still existed the plane could not fly off the Invincible or Hermes, as neither ship has a catapult or arrestor wires. To make matters worse the new surface warships ordered after 1966 Defence Review were deliberately made smaller in size to appease the Treasury. The Sheffield and her nine sisters were cut down in length by 30 feet, making it impossible to give them a Seawolf missile system or the latest missile detecting radar.

The sad fact is that four years ago the Royal Navy was better suited to dealing with the sort of war which has broken out so suddenly in the Falklands. Its mixture of aircraft carriers and anti-submarine escorts gave it the degree of flexibility which has been steadily eroded. Had General Galtieri waited another six months the Invincible and Hermes would have been sold and the fleet could not even have contemplated action in the Falklands.

It was four years ago that the Royal Navy got rid of its big carrier, the Ark Royal. It was the only carrier which could have launched planes carrying the AEW (Airborne Early Warning) system. To substitute for this early warning weakness, Task Force Counsellor, John "Sandy" Woodward has had to station his under-armed, exposed destroyers at some distance on so-called "picket duty." Instead, it's the destroyers which are being picked off.

British officials are deeply concerned that Argentina, down to its last known Exocet missile, may be close to obtaining at least four more from that champion of world "liberation," Colonel Kadafi of Libya.

Britain's Pride Shaken, But How Badly?

Despite the current setbacks, British pride, patriotism and determination (the term "stiff upper lip" does appear in newspaper copy) is still high. Of course, the mushy Left dismisses it all as mere "jingoism."

Nevertheless, these are trying times. In one real sense, the Royal Navy is the very embodiment of national pride for Britain. Therefore, the increased number of crippled and sunk ships takes its toll on the nation's soul. Naval cities like Portsmouth go into mourning for days after a homeported ship is lost. The newspapers run article after article of moving stories of anxious mothers whose sons (in one case three sons) are 8,000 miles away at sea and virtually out of communication. These mothers--including Queen Elizabeth--sit poised before the radio all day, and stare at the televised BBC 9:00 p.m. news and ITV's News at Ten. It is a grim wait to find out if you are one of the "next of kin" to be informed of the death of another seaman.

Perhaps the greatest pressure of all is on another British woman, the "Iron Lady" Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Grim-faced and dressed in black she told a large assembly of Conservative Party women's conference delegates that "despite our losses, neither our resolve nor our confidence is weakened."

The mettle of the "Iron Lady" is surely being tested. One member of Parliament told Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and several others of us at a lunch the other day that Mrs. Thatcher "is the greatest Prime Minister since Churchill." She possesses courage and determination, said M.P., Sir Bernard Braine, but it is not yet known, he said, whether Mrs. Thatcher has another key quality of leadership--vision. As of now neither the Prime Minister nor anyone else in the Cabinet really know what to do with the contentious islands should they be recovered. No one is in any mood to give them to Argentina, not after the loss of so many lives--over 100 to date--and that's before any ground action against Argentine positions in Port Stanley. Neither can anyone ascertain what the post-war period would be like, specifically British relations with Argentina, the U.S. or Europe.

Oblivious to Dangers?

Despite the mounting political and economic problems plaguing Britain today, the British workingman (or nonworkingman) is still pushing for more money and privileges. The threat of a nationwide strike by health service workers is looming, as is a widespread railway employee walkout. Brand new railway equipment (for the line from London to Borehamwood where our office is located) lies idle as the union insists the new units carry a useless drone trainman. And everywhere the concern of nearly all males is football (soccer)--the Football Association (national) Cup, the European Cup and the upcoming World Cup in Spain. The first half of the daily paper is devoted to the Falklands, the last half to football.

Most Britons do not realize how many "gray hairs" (Hos. 7:9) are on Ephraim's head these days. Some do, of course, such as DAILY MAIL commentator Keith Waterhouse, who wrote on May 27:

The Suez fiasco was not the cause of our decline. It was the effect. It was because we were already on the skids that we

desperately had to show the world that we weren't. I hope never to find convincing evidence that, even subconsciously, this was also a subsidiary motive for our losing lives in the Falklands. But when it is over, we shall be no further off the skids. Three million will still be on the dole, and look like remaining on it for the rest of the decade. The inner cities will continue to rot. The schools will continue to decline. Street riots will still be in the offing.

Yet there is nothing that rouses the ire of the British more than the threats and actions of imperialist dictators. Argentina, it seems, mirrors notorious lead characters from World War II, Hitler and Mussolini, all too well. The Lion is growling again; the question is first, how many teeth does he have--and, most importantly, is God on his side this time? The DAILY MAIL on May 27 said this, in a stirring editorial:

There is no need for pretence. We are not a people that needs to batten down the hatches on its feelings during these harrowing days. Grief is in order. Anxiety is natural. More brave men have died. Coventry--a symbol of British endurance in World War II. There will be many echoes of the 1939-45 war before the Falklands are ours again.

Then it was those grim convoys in the Arctic and North Atlantic. Now it is our supply ships in the icy South Atlantic, doggedly provisioning and reprovioning our beachhead at San Carlos. Yesterday one of them, the Atlantic Conveyor, together with its stores, was abandoned. Four, at least, of the crew are dead.

In these dark moments we must take our comfort where and how we can. Forty years ago a great wartime leader made the nation understand this. Though his indomitable will rallied Britain, Winston Churchill knew the torment of the sleepless small hours when ships went down and the spirits of even the most resolute sank, however temporarily, with them. The night the news came through of the loss of the Repulse and the Prince of Wales, he tortured himself till dawn with one characteristic question: "How can I get back at them?"

He was a fighter. And is there anyone who can doubt that we are being led by another fighter today? Sombre, and determined, Margaret Thatcher speaks for Britain; for the honesty and the rightness of our cause; for the grief of the bereaved; for the gallantry of our men at sea, in the air and on the British soil of the Falklands. There will be more sadness before we can cheer. But we will cheer when the Union Jack is raised in Port Stanley. And it will be raised.

The blood is also beginning to boil in the editorial offices of the DAILY TELEGRAPH. Its May 27 lead editorial, "Cause For Anger" dealt with the mounting losses in such a senseless, costly war:

Our sailors, pilots and soldiers are dying because of the stupidity and criminality of the Argentine junta. These politically and morally bankrupt men ordered the invasion of the Falklands in a cynical attempt to distract attention from the disastrous

failure of their policies at home. Their ignorance and isolation convinced them that they would score a virtually costless victory.

Since the fighting began they have consistently lied and fantasied. If Argentine military claims were true, scarcely a ship in the Task Force would be afloat. There is no possibility of serious discussion with such people. Their infinite capacity for self-deception and their persistent frivolity have brought this war about, have cost us dear in both blood and treasure. They will only understand their folly, perhaps not even then, if in our wrath we totally defeat them.

Finally, one of Britain's most distinguished historians, Sir Arthur Bryant, wrote a stirring opinion piece in the DAILY MAIL, also on May 27, 1982, entitled, "The Testing of a Nation."

Having our barrier of the sea, and our long mastery of the sea's surface to ensure us domestic peace and freedom, we have developed a form of government based on free discussion, on what our medieval ancestors called counsel and consent. The finest moments in Britain's past have been those when, like St. George with the Dragon, she staked her safety to defend the liberties of the weak against the lawless strong. And in doing so upheld, and ultimately restored, the rule of law among nations.

Britain's enemies however, took advantage of the fact that she was losing the mastery of the seas, was developing a different kind of navy--a mere component of a larger force (NATO)--one no longer geared to defend far off places. Continues Sir Arthur:

For the dictator's very act of aggression had been set off by the way in which Britain had apparently divested herself of her sea defences, withdrawing her last guard ship from her Falkland and Antarctic dependencies and announcing in Parliament, through her Defence Minister, that she was about to dispense as a measure of economy with a large number of the ships and men with which she has since achieved so great a naval miracle. If the dictator who so swiftly seized the opportunity to strike at our defenceless island had only had the patience to wait for a few months, nothing we could have done could have restored the situation. But patience is a virtue which dictators seldom possess.

The losses of recent days have shaken the British, said Sir Arthur, who nevertheless feels Britain will still "win in the end":

In the shock of it, for a moment, courage and resolution almost faltered. But war is like that and no nation has had more experience of such shocks or recovered from them so well. It has always been the last battle we have won in all our wars.

The next week or two, with the arrival of more troops on the "QE2" (a certain Argentine target) and the expected battle for Port Stanley, should reveal whether Sir Arthur is right.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau
(Your temporary "war correspondent")