

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

From the Bonn Office This month we began operation of our new Data-point 8600 computer. We are now able to locate subscribers in our file on-line and send them their requested literature. In the next several months, programs will gradually be added to increase its capability. We are planning to do this in three phases.

At present we are at phase one, which enables us to locate any subscriber on-line. This means that we have access to our entire subscription list. In phase two, we will be able to update the subscription list and add new subscribers. We have the program now for adding new subscribers and are waiting for the go ahead from Pasadena to implement this program. We have sent test data to Pasadena and will hopefully begin operating with this program soon.

Phase three will enable us to maintain our entire file, using Pasadena's computer as a back-up. This involves updating, as well as the printing of PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS subscriber labels, which is presently being done in Pasadena. We hope to complete this phase by the end of this year.

So far this year, we have had a tremendous increase in incoming mail. Incoming mail for this month was up 92% over March of 1983. In the first three months of 1984 alone we received over half of the total amount of mail received in the entire year of 1983. And the year 1983 itself set a record for incoming mail.

We also sent out a large quantity of booklets and Bible correspondence course lessons in March, due mainly to the fact that the new readers from our ad campaign in January have received their first magazine this month and are now requesting literature.

The number of donors thus far has increased 21.8% over the first three months of 1983, and our co-workers have increased 12.2%. The month-to-date mail income was up 14.1% over March of last year, and the year-to-date increase stands at 4.3%.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

I wanted to write a note of appreciation and thanks for the Refreshing Program. The opportunity to break from our normal activity and routine and to spend a couple of weeks at Headquarters is very enjoyable, profitable and helpful. The classes were beneficial and stimulating and will benefit God's people as well. We very much enjoyed the hospitality and the fine meals prepared for us.

One of the greatest benefits of the Refreshing Program to me, personally, was the tremendous overview of the multi-national, multi-lingual worldwide work of God's Church. Perhaps we think too much of our own specific responsibilities or part in the Church or of our own geographic area and lose sight of the now world-girdling work that God is doing.

So, again, thanks to everyone involved in the Refreshing Program. We'll digest what we've been given and try to serve and help God's people with it and look forward to Refreshing Program IV.

Shorty and Patty Sue Fuessel

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Norma and I would like to thank Mr. Armstrong, you and all the team at Headquarters for making this Refreshing Program the best ever! There was a tremendous emphasis on the family and how to fulfill Malachi 4:6. The practical information on how to help the families and how to teach the parents to be better parents was invaluable. Both Norma and I felt a burning desire to change ourselves and become more effective instruments in God's hands. Thank you again for your dedication and hard work. It is always exciting to be at Headquarters--especially now with the unity and harmony that is so evident.

Roy and Norma Holladay

Greetings Mr. Tkach:

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The material presented was very stimulating and profitable. Meeting and talking with so many ministers, faculty, students and personnel certainly promotes friendship, fellowship and love for one another.

It was the icing on top to hear from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong personally. When he listed the precious truths we now know, one realizes how mightily God has used Mr. Armstrong these past 57 years.

Roy and Tine Mc Carthy

Dear Mr. Tkach & Staff:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for a most informative and enlightening Refreshing Program III. Thank you for all the hard work and effort that was put into this program. It was the most inspiring yet. It was also truly inspiring to see the growth and love at Headquarters which serves as an example to all of us.

Bob and Faye League

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the Caribbean

HAMILTON, BERMUDA--CECIL J. PULLEY: We are presently undergoing some more labour unrest, with strikes underway in certain trades.

We see Satan's "get" mentality permeating both labour and management. This is not having a major effect upon the members now, but it could in the near future.

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA--PAUL KRAUTMANN: Satan seems to be throwing obstacles and roadblocks wherever we turn. Presently the Church and individual members have come in for some setbacks and persecution. The "WORLD TOMORROW" program has been taken off the local radio station. The farm project has had to stop due to a change in management at the YMCA. Also, Americans must now obtain visas to enter Guyana--Mr. Bass probably will not be able to visit. However, the brethren are taking it all well.

From the United States

MELBOURNE, FL--CRAIG BACHELLER: The Y.O.U. family weekend held here this month was quite a success. It was a success because of the wonderful changes in the attitudes, sportsmanship, and approach of the players, coaches, and parents. It is obvious that everyone is striving to be the people that God has revealed to Mr. Armstrong we should be.

ALBANY, NY--LYLE WELTY: The congregation is growing together as a family. The new families God has added have inspired so much more enthusiasm and involvement within the flock. The love and respect for Mr. Armstrong and the desire to be involved in the work of the Church is definitely on the upswing.

SANTA FE, NM--WALTER DICKINSON: It is very encouraging to see the number of prospectives grow in this church area. The television program in Albuquerque is received here and is apparently having a direct effect on this upsurge lately. The members all appreciate the program very much and comment on its power each week. The general attitude of the Church spiritually is improving, and the increased warmth on the part of the members is very noticeable.

MINOT, ND--DAN CREED: It is very encouraging to go visit new PMs and to have them tell you that their first contact with the Church was by picking up a PLAIN TRUTH at one of our newsstands. This certainly shows that the work of the local brethren is paying off.

HELENA, MT--DAN WHITE: New visit requests have picked up here as a result of Mr. Armstrong's telecasts, and a high percentage of the people are very teachable. The new people in the congregation are very enthusiastic and progressing nicely.

PROVIDENCE, RI--JIM FRANKS: Everything seems to be going well in the Providence area. We had our best attendance ever for the winter months. PM activity continues at a very high level. I received 20 requests in one seven-day period. This is the most I have ever received.

ASHEVILLE, NC--GERALD WESTON: New visit requests remain very high, though the number in this area who are willing to repent and go all the way still remains small.

LAKELAND, FL--FRANK McCRADY III: Our children do enjoy the Y.O.U. activities, but our Y.E.S. review sessions show that parents aren't working with their children as they should. Parents have an awesome responsibility toward their children to teach the truth.

PEORIA, IL--JESS ERNEST: Economic conditions continue to be a significant factor in the area. There is somewhat of a resurgence in local businesses, but there is only a slight increase in employment. Because there are thousands looking for employment, local employers are becoming less tolerant of religion. Two men in our congregation could be terminated because of being unable to work Friday nights, and a third fellow may face the same problem. It seems as though a number are to be tested in regard to their Sabbath commitment.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Easter and Resurrection Telecasts Draw Excellent Response

The telecasts "Was the Resurrection on Sunday?" (shown April 14-15) and "The Plain Truth About Easter" (shown April 21-22) brought in 10,499 and 13,142 weekend phone calls respectively. The Easter program count was the second highest ever for a weekend and 43% above this year's average.

The increased number of TV stations airing The "WORLD TOMORROW" and the increase in WATS lines since 1981 have had a substantial impact on TV response. The following is a summary of the number of calls responding to both of these programs in the last four years:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>"Resurrection" Weekend Response</u> | <u>"Easter" Weekend Response</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1981 | 2,420 | 2,762 | 5,182 |
| 1982 | 8,637 | 10,283 | 18,920 |
| 1983 | 9,148 | 10,527 | 19,675 |
| 1984 | 10,499 | 13,142 | 23,641 |

It is interesting to note that if one person, working a 40-hour week, were required to answer this past weekend's calls consecutively, it would take him or her over two months to complete the job. Or, if that person received five calls daily, it would take about seven years to answer all of those calls.

Viewers were amazed at the astounding truth about Easter and the new insights Mr. Armstrong presented about Christ's resurrection. Following are some comments from those phoning in for the literature offered:

Your program on the origin of Easter bothered me. It's really frightening to realize that it wasn't brought to my attention before. I want my children to learn what is biblical truth, not just a tradition. After watching the program, I went to an encyclopedia and looked up "Easter." I've been a Christian all my life and have never heard anything like this.

M.G. (Corbin, KY)

From a child on up I wondered how they get three days and three nights from Friday to Sunday morning, but I never asked anyone about it. All my life I've heard it preached from the pulpit. Mr. Armstrong sheds more light and truth on everything I've heard. When I get back from Sunday school, I'm going to look up all the scriptures he gave on the program this morning.

A.M. (Georgia)

Shocking! I didn't believe what he was saying but then I read it right there in the Bible. I really want those two booklets he offered. I don't want to be deceived anymore. I've been looking for a religion that is preached from the Bible; not just what men say or someone else's way.

H.G. (Washington)

I'd rather listen to Mr. Armstrong than go to church. He really explains what is in the Bible. Today, all of a sudden, a light switched on in my brain. I understood what the bread and wine symbolized and its relation to the lamb killed at Passover. I would like to give Mr. Armstrong the biggest hug of thanks!

R.K. (Michigan)

This is my first time watching The "WORLD TOMORROW" program. I had never studied my Bible to prove Easter; I just followed tradition. But today's program really disproved my belief in Easter.

J.P. (Saginaw, MI)

I think I'm one of many who were shocked by Mr. Armstrong saying "the resurrection was not on Sunday." It's something I had never heard before.

J.A. (Tannersville, NJ)

I read the Bible a lot, but this is the first time I've heard the resurrection of Christ explained. These are things we need to know and I want more information on this subject. Please send me your booklet.

D.G. (Massachusetts)

I'm glad Mr. Armstrong spoke about the resurrection. I've never felt that Christ or Easter were fully explained. More pastors should be speaking on these things. People should know more about the Bible--but what they get is what man says.

A.F. (Cleveland, OH)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

PLAIN TRUTH Subscription Circulation Continues to Climb

PLAIN TRUTH subscription circulation continues to show strong growth in the United States. The latest figures for the June 1984 issue are up 5% over May, and up 29% over last year. The June issue will be mailed to over 2.6 million subscribers in the United States. In addition, nearly 1.9 million

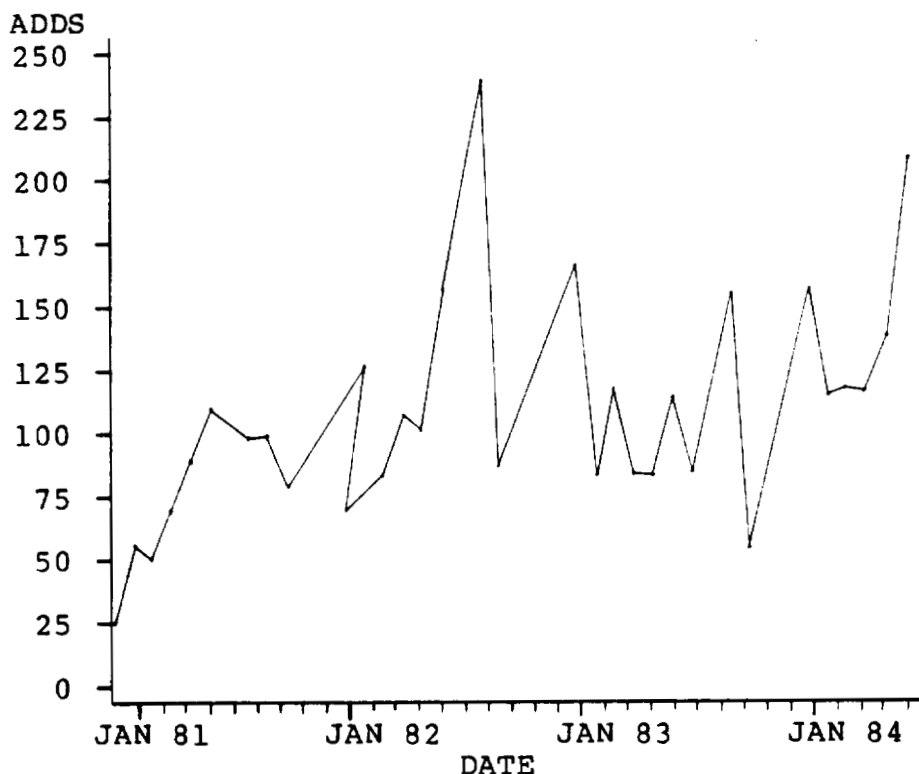
newsstand copies will be distributed through the regular Church program as well as Good Neighbor boards, display islands in airports and commuter stations, and Elson's gift shops.

Demand for The PLAIN TRUTH has increased so much that the number of new subscribers added for the June issue was 212,000--the second highest number ever added for a single issue. In the first three months of this year, we have already added over 40% of the number of new subscribers added in all of last year. The following graph pictures the number of new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers added since January 1981.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

NEW PLAIN TRUTH SUBSCRIBERS BY ISSUE

All Figures in Thousands



ON THE WORLD SCENE

GROWING COMMUNIST FEARS OF POPE'S "VISION"; UNEASY RESTS THE GERMAN SOUL

Obviously feeling the heat, the Communist world has delivered its heaviest attack on the Pope just as the Italian courts are preparing to try the Bulgarian accused of conspiring to kill him. In a March 28 editorial, the Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper TRIBUNA, acting as a mouthpiece for the Kremlin, sharply criticized Pope John Paul II as "one of the most reactionary popes of this century." According to TRIBUNA, the Pope supports those who "call upon the Catholics of Eastern Europe to follow the example of the reactionaries in the Polish church." Moreover, the paper

alleged, the Pope also always tells his listeners during his many overseas tours "that Communism and the Soviet Union must be destroyed."

The Vatican took the unusual step of responding with an unsigned editorial in the March 31 issue of L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, the Vatican newspaper, calling the criticism "not only absurd and trumped up, but also gravely insulting." Peter Nichols, Rome correspondent for THE TIMES of London, probed Moscow's growing anxiety with John Paul II in his paper's April 6 edition:

The Roman Catholic Church is treated worse in Czechoslovakia than in any other Eastern European country, but that situation is not sufficient to explain this blanket-barrage against the Pope which is taken to emanate from Moscow as much as from Prague. According to TRIBUNA, his speeches abroad are marked by "a policy of restoration of old social orders," a policy which has as its dominant theme "a passionate anti-communism and visceral anti-Sovietism."...

John Paul II's attitudes could hardly be other than different to those of his predecessors. More than a diplomatic plan, he has a vision. He has repeatedly spoken of Europe as stretching to the Urals. He sees his election as a sign that Eastern Europe must be given its just place as an integral part of Christian Europe and not be treated simply as a painful diplomatic question. He insists on common Christian roots and, added to this vision, is a dream of reconciliation between Western Christianity and the Eastern Orthodox churches.

Compared with his predecessors he is, in the words of a highly placed prelate at the Vatican, "playing for much higher stakes, and one result is that the Soviet leadership sees him as an adversary." That would not have been said about a pope even in private at any time in the last quarter of a century, any more than the Czechoslovak attack would have been made during that period. His attitude is seen, however, to reflect the current state of relations between East and West. Who now sees hope for a genuine understanding with the Soviet Union?

Does this adversary status mean that Moscow was behind the nearly successful attempt on his life in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981? Some light will be shed on this mystery when the trial at last takes place here of Serghei Antonov, the Bulgarian Airlines official accused of helping Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist, in the assassination plot....

The implicit danger is that if the attempt on the Pope's life was really organized by the East, they will feel that they have to try again. In the intervening three years his design has become clearer. The Prague attack shows that he is regarded as a serious danger. But it also bears out one of his great disappointments. The Pope is often regarded as being too Polish in his attitude towards the church internationally. But his close advisers point out that he is genuinely attached to the Slav peoples as a whole: he is deeply moved by the Eastern liturgies. He had hoped that, in some way, communism would change. Prague underlines that it is showing no signs of doing so.

Unrest Begins to Stir in the German Soul

Throughout its brief 35-year history, the Federal Republic of Germany has been a relatively quiescent--indeed pacified--state. With its ultimate protection guaranteed by the U.S. nuclear umbrella, its citizens could forget about military ambitions and concentrate their energies on industrial reconstruction and expansion. Equally important, the European Community provided Bonn the prospects of an expanded economic market as well as an acceptable political goal of a united Europe.

All of this is now in disarray. The Common Market lurches from one summit collapse to another, and the U.S. nuclear umbrella, full of holes anyway, might someday be altogether removed as America turns its attentions primarily to the Western Hemisphere and Asia. As a result, the Germans are once again wondering about their future--and that should be a factor of grave concern to the world. As the late Luigi Barzini points out in the last sentence to his book THE EUROPEANS, "Germany is, as it always was, a mutable, Proteuslike, unpredictable country, particularly dangerous when it is unhappy." This uncertainty, this unhappiness is slowly building up. Tyler Marshall writes in the April 18, 1984 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The chief disarmament spokesman of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union called Tuesday for a greater role for Europe in its own nuclear defense and, eventually, a West German voice in the use of nuclear weapons. Writing in the Hamburg-based daily, DIE WELT, Juergen Todenhoefer called for a merger of independent French and British nuclear forces with the 572 U.S. intermediate-range nuclear missiles now being deployed by NATO in Western Europe to create a unified nuclear defense for the continent.

While Todenhoefer's remarks do not constitute official West German government policy and reportedly have drawn criticism within his own party, they do reflect a growing West German concern about the need for a greater European and West German voice on nuclear issues. Noting present British and French plans calling for expanding their combined nuclear arsenal from 162 warheads at present to more than 1,200 over the next decade, Todenhoefer said a joint force would boost European participation in defending its own soil while still maintaining an American presence considered vital if the force is to be taken seriously by the Soviets.

According to his proposal, control of the missiles would initially rest with the United States, Britain and France but at some undetermined future date would be expanded to include other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including West Germany. This would take place according to "progress in the political unification process of Western Europe," Todenhoefer wrote.

The West German Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the plan late Tuesday. Sources within the Christian Democratic Union who did not want to be identified by name indicated that there are serious differences within the party about the Todenhoefer paper, which they said had not been discussed internally before its

publication Tuesday. Indeed, the basic element of Todenhoefer's thesis, combining French, British and European-based American nuclear forces, would appear to run counter to the NATO negotiating position at the Geneva arms talks. U.S. negotiators have consistently refused to accede to Soviet demands that the British and French missiles be included in the U.S.-Soviet intermediate nuclear force talks....

Todenhoefer's ideas constitute the latest in a series of statements from West German politicians that reflect disquiet over proposals for future NATO defense policy and the absence of movement toward reducing overall East-West political tensions. On March 30, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher issued a 10-page position paper calling for immediate resumption of U.S.-Soviet dialogue as well as a strengthening of the European side of the Atlantic Alliance. Last week, West German government officials, including Defense Minister Manfred Woerner, sharply criticized Reagan Administration plans to develop an anti-strategic missile defense system in space, saying that it could diminish the United States' interest in defending Western Europe and add a new dimension to the arms race.

One of the leading American experts on Germany is Gordon A. Craig, the J.E. Wallace Sterling Professor of Humanities at Stanford University. He is the author of the book THE GERMANS. I had the pleasure of hearing Prof. Craig speak in San Francisco last year. He autographed my copy of his book; I took his photograph, sent it to him and we have maintained a low-level correspondence since that time. In the April 10 LOS ANGELES TIMES, Prof. Craig wrote an article entitled "Germans: A New Search for Identity." Here are excerpts:

It is probably true that the Germans, a people fragmented for long stretches of their history, have always brooded over the question of their identity more than other peoples have. But this has rarely been as true as it is today. The question asked long ago by Schiller--"Where is Germany? I don't know where to find it!"--is no less perplexing than it was in his time.

To what does the patriotic German owe his loyalty these days? To the Federal Republic, which in its own constitution is described as a transitory creation? To the ideal of European unity, once evoked by Konrad Adenauer but now sadly faded? To Willy Brandt's emotionally unsatisfying construction "One Nation, Two States"? Or to the idea of a Germany reunited at any cost?

There was a time--during the heady excitement of the economic miracle, for example, and again during the first hopeful phase of detente--when this question had little urgency. This is no longer true. With the emergence of serious economic strains and the marked deterioration of relations between the superpowers, Germans have become less sure of themselves and more aware of their vulnerability. This has made them both more introspective and more self-assertive. This cannot help but affect German-American relations....

This is seen in the welling up of interest among intellectuals, Greens and the left wing of the Social Democratic Party in the

"Europeanization of Europe," the withdrawal of both Germanys from military blocs, and union through neutralization. It is perhaps to be detected also in the zeal with which political and economic contacts with East Germany are being pursued by West German politicians. This is illustrated by the number of provisional and federal ministers who showed up at the recent Spring Fair in Leipzig, by the visit of a Social Democratic delegation from the Bundestag to the East German Volkskammer and by the projected visit of the East German Communist Party chairman, Erich Honecker, to West Germany in the fall.

It is worth noting that as relations between the Soviet Union and the United States steadily worsen, those between the two Germanys have never been better. This is not going to lead to a dramatic shift in alliance alignments in the immediate future. But it is clear that these new German currents--which recently led the dean of German journalists, Countess Marion Donhoff, to ask worriedly, "What's up with the Germans?"--deserve serious attention in Washington.

The Reagan Administration has too easily assumed that, despite last year's agitations about missile deployment, the Federal Republic, under the firm hand of Kohl, would return to a condition of Nibelungen loyalty to America. There is no basis for this kind of wishful thinking. One of West Germany's shrewdest political observers, Rolf Zundel, wrote recently in DIE ZEIT that there is no doubt about the fact that his countrymen object to being reduced "to an alliance partner bristling with weapons in stern alliance discipline (but possessing no guaranteed right of opinion about the employment of the most dangerous weapons)"....

"This unconditional absorption in the Western world," he wrote, "naturally arouses opposition." This doesn't signify that West Germans are preparing to depart from the Western alliance, or will waver in their faith in parliamentary democracy. But it does mean that the United States can expect, in Zundel's words, a new self-regard to its ally's demeanor: "A calm, self-confident presentation of what separates German perceptions from the American world view...not pro- or anti-Americanism, but attention to what is one's own. Otherwise, there can be no lasting alliance capability and no inner peace."

East Germany--People Flee While Prussianism Is Revived

"Strange things are happening" (as comedian Red Buttons used to say) in East Germany too. As part of recent arrangements with Bonn, the East German regime is once again opening the refugee faucet. An average of 4,000 citizens are leaving for West Germany each month. Incredibly, up to half a million people, more than one in every 40 of the adult population, have applied for an exit visa. There is little doubt that many of those leaving are ones who have been more vocally opposed to the East German regime. Prominent among these are members of the Protestant churches who have espoused the non-official East German peace movement. Then too, part of the exodus may be due to East German response to huge loans from the Bonn government.

At the same time, the East German authorities have been restoring, quietly but steadily, Prussian history in an attempt to give their regime a more solid historical underpinning. Here are excerpts from a report in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE of March 23, 1984:

East Germany's Communist leaders are reviving Prussian history in an effort to give their 35-year-old state a solid historical underpinning and to cultivate an East German national feeling. Frederick the Great, the Prussian generals who fought Napoleon, the political reformers and neoclassical architects of the early 19th century and, more recently, even Otto von Bismarck are back on their pedestals, or at least in the newspapers and school books. Martin Luther was honored last year on the 500th anniversary of his birth.

It was not always so. After World War II and the partition of Germany, the official impulse of the new state was to make a complete break with the past. "Today, we know that our state was not created by a single generation but has much deeper roots in the past," an East Berlin intellectual said. Young people cannot grow up without history but need a feeling of history to develop a national consciousness, he added.

The revival of history is evident throughout the center of East Berlin. A famous 19th-century monument of Frederick the Great, riding high on his horse and surrounded by his officers, is back in its honored place on the esplanade of Unter den Linden, the city's most famous avenue. It was brought back in 1980 after being kept out of sight for four decades outside Berlin. It was Erich Honecker, the present Communist Party leader and chief of state, who first referred to Frederick as "the great" again. Many others still prefer the more modest "Frederick II."

A few steps away, each on his pedestal, are Gerhard von Scharnhorst and August Neidhardt von Gneisenau, two Prussian Army commanders who fought against Napoleon. In the same row is General Ludwig Yorck von Wartenburg, who formed a common front with the Russians and turned on Napoleon in 1813 without waiting for orders from his hesitant king, Frederick Wilhelm III. Next to him is Gebhard Leberecht von Bluecher, the Prussian field marshal who played a decisive role in Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo....

The latest adventure in reviving history is a biography of Bismarck by Gerd Engelberg, a historian, which is to be published soon. Until now, Bismarck, the chancellor of Imperial Germany from 1871 to 1890, was seen in official East Germany as an overbearing reactionary Prussian Junker, remembered mostly for having banned the Socialist Party. Now he is described as a nation builder and political thinker, even though perhaps on the wrong side of the barricades, and it is said that he showed considerable intelligence in the handling of his relations with Russia.

West German historians believe that the revival of history fulfills an urgent political and psychological need of the East

Germans. One said:..."Their state is 35 years old. Their policy has always been to maintain it as a separate German state; they want to delineate it clearly from West Germany as well as their Eastern neighbors. So they need history, German history, on their own home ground."

Some West German intellectuals fear that the East Germans are laying the groundwork for a claim that they, and not the Federal Republic, are the legitimate heirs of German history. West German historians also are wrestling with the problem of German history and new books are frequent.

If or when German unity comes about, this revival of militaristic Prussian history in the East could have a part in restoring a sense of history to Germany as a whole. It fits in with the plea by Melvyn Krauss (PGR, 3/16/84 p. 11) for Europe's military spirit to become important once again and for "people of daring, spirit and imagination" to come forth. Germany once again will play the key role in defending Western (Catholic) civilization in Europe.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau