

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 7, NO. 28

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 12, 1985

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

God has truly blessed His Church with tremendous growth during the past several years. I thought you would be interested in the rate at which growth is occurring this year in three major categories: baptisms, new contacts and prospective members.

In 1984, we averaged 465 baptisms per month worldwide. For the first four months of 1985, the average number of baptisms per month worldwide has been 597. The resulting increase in attendance can be estimated by multiplying the number of baptisms by 1.5. As you can see, the rate of growth through baptisms is phenomenal! God is adding to His Church the equivalent of a good-sized congregation every month! About 80% of this growth occurs in the United States. (We can expect this average to drop slightly in upcoming months due to the larger number of baptisms that seem to always take place just before Passover.)

We can also rejoice that the quality of baptisms is very high, due to the instruction we've been receiving from Mr. Herbert Armstrong since he began setting the Church back on God's track six years ago. During the mid 1970s, Christ's instruction to "count the cost" simply was not emphasized, while the concept of "whosoever will" (not mentioned in the Bible until Revelation 22:17, where it refers to the time after the Great White Throne Judgment) was heavily emphasized. This unbiblical approach resulted in many being baptized who simply had never truly repented, who were never conquered by God, and who never were a changed, converted part of the Body of Christ.

In the June 24, 1985, Special Edition of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS, Mr. Armstrong wrote:

We receive the Holy Spirit ONLY after complete repentance of the way we were living. We must come out of this world to live a life separate from the life and ways of the world, with our minds on things of God, not things of this world...some who become somewhat interested, are baptized and start in the Church, drift back into the world and leave the Church. Many professed to repent and be baptized who had not repented, but were accepted by Church members as brethren. These false brethren did and always have entered into the Church professing to be members.

We all need to continue to carefully follow Mr. Armstrong's instruction to be as sure as we possibly can about a person's repentance in our baptismal counseling.

The second area of growth I want to share with you is that of new individuals contacted by the ministry. In 1984, we averaged 1,292 new contacts per month worldwide. Through April of 1985, we've averaged 1,972 new contacts per month worldwide!

The last area is that of prospective member additions. (Here again, we've had some recent instruction about keeping the PM listings accurate and up to date.) The PM lists also show considerable potential future growth in the Church. The 1984 monthly average for PM additions worldwide was 453. Through April of this year, the worldwide monthly average has been 566.

The growth God is granting His Church results primarily through His blessing the increased exposure of "The WORLD TOMORROW" program and the increased distribution of The PLAIN TRUTH. As Mr. Armstrong has so often said, when our ways please God, He will bless us. Our job, then, is to see to it that our ways do please God. Our personal examples as ministers, and our faithfulness in teaching God's Word to His people, are of great importance to God. We must be ever vigilant to remain in close contact with God through prayer, personal Bible study and fasting. We must take our calling and our responsibilities before God seriously as faithful children and servants.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for our brethren in India and Sri Lanka. Mr. Robert Morton reported that all members in northern India were safe during the recent bombings there. Let's never neglect praying for the safety and provision for God's people all over the earth in these troublous times.

\*\*\*\* TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL CHURCHES \*\*\*\*

A Reminder Concerning the Feast of Tabernacles

Preparations for the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles continue at a hectic pace. Everyone at Headquarters is anticipating a tremendous Feast again this year! All of your plans should be made and your housing arrangements completed very soon.

We would like to remind those of you who have not sent in your tithe of the second tithe for the Feast to do so as soon as possible. Be sure to indicate what portion is tithe of the second tithe if you mail it in with your regular tithes and offerings.

We appreciate your assistance in making this another successful Feast!

Recent Ordinations

On June 19, Messrs. Dean Blackwell, Guy Ames and Rod Matthews ordained five men in the Philippines. Raised from local elder to preaching elder were Jessup Bahinting, Cagayan de Oro; Felipe Casing, Tacloban City; and Ireneo Marquez, Santiago and Roxas. Two ministerial trainees were ordained local elders: Pacifico Magno Jr., San Fernando, Pampanga; and Rodolfo Salisipan, Baguio City.

International News

From Mr. Frank Schnee At the beginning of June, the Jerusalem Dig students, accompanied by Mr. Larry Salyer and his family, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Thompson and group leader Richard Paige, arrived in Bonn. The group spent three days here, where they were able to tour the city and the Parliament. They also had a tour of the Bonn office, and on the Sabbath went to services in Dusseldorf, where Mr. Paige gave the sermonette and Mr. Salyer the sermon.

Also at the beginning of June, Office Manager John Karlson and his assistant Wade Fransson traveled to Czechoslovakia and Poland to work out final arrangements for the Feast sites in Brno and Krakow. Accompanying them to Brno were festival elder Winfried Fritz and church member Heinz Wilsberg. Mr. Karlson mentioned that the Cedok officials really appreciated Mr. Armstrong's trip to Prague in April and that they were very impressed with his visit. From Brno Mr. Karlson and Mr. Fransson traveled to Poland for meetings in Warsaw and Krakow. Mr. Fransson noted that they were received very warmly by the officials of the government tourist agency Orbis, and that it is obvious God has put us in contact with the right people to work with in organizing the Feast in Krakow.

On Friday, June 14, Mr. Ralph Helge of our Legal Department in Pasadena arrived in Bonn with his wife and two children while on their tour of the European offices. On the Sabbath Mr. Helge brought us a very inspiring sermon detailing the 1979 attempt of the State of California to take over the Church. The members were very happy to hear a thorough explanation of what went on at that time and were reminded that it is God who allows trials to happen and that we must remain loyal when even greater trials come in the future.

On Sunday, June 16, Mr. Don Patrick and Miss Peggy Warkentin from Publishing Services in Pasadena came to Bonn to begin the installation of our new Bedford Meteor 3000 Pagination Station. With this specialized typesetting computer, we will eventually be able to prepare translated PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS or booklet manuscripts in genuine typeset form and fit the material into a preset layout. This will then be sent to Pasadena via telephone line where the material will be run through the typesetter and films made for printing. The purpose in installing the typesetting computers in the foreign offices is to be able to reduce the time it takes to prepare the magazine and therefore allow us to be even more up to date. Miss Warkentin has been sent by Pasadena to train personnel on our staff to operate the Bedford system. We will start out by first doing galleys and then full-page layouts.

At the end of the month the final meeting of the East German Spokesman Club was held in Dresden, East Germany. Members from the West also attended as guests, as well as four Ambassador College students participating in the German summer program.

In June the German PLAIN TRUTH subscription list stood at 85,707. The German GOOD NEWS list has been gaining subscribers rapidly due to offers in the PLAIN TRUTH for The GOOD NEWS magazine. The German GOOD NEWS circulation now stands at 21,177, 71% over June of 1984.

We budgeted for a 12% increase in income, but have unfortunately had a minus percentage since December of last year. A turnaround began during Mr. Armstrong's visit to Munich in the middle of May. The month of June has now brought us a healthy 21.2% increase in income, putting us at a minus 1.8% for the year to date. Before this we had been as low as minus 8% for the year to date, which was 20% below budget. We hope this present upward trend continues and would appreciate everyone's prayers that it will.

From Mr. Frank Brown Because of the combined July-August issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, we have no new circulation figures to report for June, but we have good news on income. Our mail income for this month was up 23% compared to June, 1984, bringing the year-to-date increase to 12.5%. This is a very encouraging trend, especially since June has traditionally been one of the lower months for income.

A total of 16,355 booklet requests have been received from U.K. readers in response to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter. This is a 17.1% response less than three weeks after the mailing date. We expect this response to go even higher. The total requests received to date from all areas administered from here is just under 20,000.

This was the busiest month for the Mail Processing Centre in several years. Almost 51,000 pieces of mail were processed during June. U.K. mail amounted to just under 30,000, a 91% increase over June, 1984, bringing the year-to-date increase to 12.6%.

Responses to our two million Scandinavian leaflets are now coming in. These four-colour leaflets offering The PLAIN TRUTH in either the English or Norwegian language, were inserted into six of Scandinavia's most respected journals. Nearly 8,000 replies have been received and they are still coming in.

A special conference was held at Elstree House from the 1st through 4th of July to discuss the work of the Church in Africa. Messrs. Lateef Edalere, Owen Willis, Josef Forson, Elijah Chukwudi, Steve Le Blanc, Ben Kaswaga, Greg Albrecht and Melvin Rhodes attended, as well as Mr. Stirk and myself. The conference was very successful in establishing mutual understanding and building strong working relationships between relevant offices in the United Kingdom and Africa.

A presentation was made by each of the three African offices describing their work over the last three years, and their plans for the future. There was also a presentation on Mail Processing and Postal Services in the U.K., followed by a question-and-answer period during which procedures were clarified.

Plans for the Feast of Tabernacles were discussed, not only for this year, but also long-term plans. Mr. Meakin gave a presentation on SEP and YOU activities and Mr. Greg Albrecht gave a talk on Ambassador College, discussing how African students can best be helped.

For relaxation, a trip to the theatre in London was arranged, and on the evening of the 4th of July all the visitors and some staff members from Elstree House enjoyed a barbecue at my home, basking in warm English sunshine!

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGWorldwide Mail Counts Available for the First Time

With the assistance of the international offices, we are now able to obtain current worldwide mail counts each month. Heretofore, it was nearly impossible to get a complete picture. But now, with the help of the computer, we can do this on a consistent and regular basis.

We were pleased to discover that in the first five months of this year another new all-time record was set. A total of 3.8 million letters and cards were received worldwide. The U.S. accounted for two-thirds or 2.5 million pieces.

Worldwide mail counts for the January-May period of the past four years are shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Rest of World</u>	<u>Worldwide</u>
1982	1.6 million	0.8 million	2.4 million
1983	1.5 million	0.9 million	2.4 million
1984	1.9 million	1.2 million	3.1 million
1985	2.5 million	1.3 million	3.8 million

Decline in Postal Returns Saves \$45,000

Although our incoming mail is breaking all records, the postal return category has dropped substantially. This has saved the Church a considerable amount of money.

When The PLAIN TRUTH cannot be delivered, the post office sends a postal return, which notifies us that the person has moved and, when possible, includes his new address. Now, because of a recent change in regulations, magazines like The PLAIN TRUTH must be forwarded for a period of 60 days before the postal return is sent. Thus, a subscriber continues to receive the magazine and is given more time to notify us of his change of address.

Through May of this year, we received 138,947 postal returns, which was 52% below the same period last year (292,039). Since we are charged 30 cents for each postal return, this decrease in undelivered magazines has saved over \$45,000.

Surprising Number of Teenagers Now Contacting God's Church

An increasing number of our letters and calls are from young people. Many indicate a remarkably mature interest in and understanding of the things of God. Faced with a frightening future, they are finding hope in our message of God's purpose and plan for mankind. Following are a few letters we received recently:

I would like to thank you for having such a great magazine. You couldn't imagine how much it has affected my life, and that of my brother. My brother picked it up at a store for the fun of it, but once we finished reading it from cover to cover, we realized it wasn't a fun magazine.

I'm 12 and my brother is almost 14, but after reading The PLAIN TRUTH we feel much older and wiser. The knowledge that we gained has helped us a great deal, both with our personal lives and spiritual too. We both now subscribe to The PLAIN TRUTH and can hardly wait till the next issue appears. We both plan to be faithful readers for many, many years to come.

K.T. (Staten Island, NY)

I am a 14-year-old new PLAIN TRUTH reader. I'm serious about life and its conflicts, and I've a concern for the welfare of everyone. I try to learn more about life every day and The PLAIN TRUTH helps fulfill that need. Your magazine keeps me informed of the present situation of the world and it has interesting and helpful articles. Keep up your good work and God bless you and all the other readers. The PLAIN TRUTH is really a magazine of understanding.

R.C. (San Antonio, TX)

I am a concerned 14-year-old girl. I am concerned about what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen to this world. You help me understand world events through your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH. I feel, as a responsible young person, that it is necessary to know all aspects of life, religion, and world events.

I feel that religion is a definite thing, and that our Lord is real, but I get angry when people dare to challenge the reality of our Lord. I feel happy that some can understand the Bible and then help others to understand it. I can depend on you to help me understand because when you have a point to make, you don't beat around the bush.

T.S. (Kelso, WA)

I am 16 years old and was involved in an illegal breaking-and-entering, but since I have read your booklets on the way of God, I have turned over a new leaf. I am going to start to follow in the steps of God and try to be 100 percent different for the good.

L.C. (Canada)

I want to thank you for the wonderful books and magazines you provide. I have learned a lot from all the articles and books you write. I want to thank you for giving me the chance to know God's truth. To me it is a treasure worth more than all the gold in the world.

L.B. (Age 17; address unavailable)

Would you please send me the YOUTH magazine that you spoke of on your TV program? Also, I would like to say that there are a lot of us teenagers who enjoy your program very much. I have found so many things in my Bible to be different from what I have been taught. This is due to the fine workmanship that I have found in your magazines and your Bible course.

L.H. (Toledo, OH)

Hi, I am 12 years old. I have decided to request the YOUTH 85 so that I (1) can improve the way God looks at me, (2) have more of a

chance to get to the place of safety, (3) will set a better example for the little kids to follow, and (4) have the elders think of me as a future prince and leader.

M.P. (Anchorage, AK)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

"THE AGE OF TERRORISM"; AMERICA THE HATED Vermont Royster, writing in the July 3, 1985, WALL STREET JOURNAL, said there is only one way to describe the contemporary era--the Age of Terrorism. While Americans are often the selected targets, the entire civilized world is exposed to both individualized and state terrorism:

This TWA affair is not an isolated case [and]...it is not our country alone that is target and victim. In Britain a resort hotel was blown up killing and maiming members of that country's government. In a London department store six random shoppers were killed in purely wanton destruction. In Burma a bomb killed six visiting government officials from South Korea. And just last week an Indian airliner was blown up in mid-ocean killing more than 300 men, women and children. The list is endless, reaching back to the massacre of Israelis at an Olympic village....

Historians like to give names to various eras, the Age of Faith or the Age of Reason. Ours can only be called the Age of Terrorism, for we are no longer dealing with the isolated acts of bandits or deranged killers; those we have always had. What we are living through is a revolt against all ordered society, a war on civilization itself.

The obvious unwillingness on the part of the government to strike back hard and swift at terrorist attacks is frustrating the majority of Americans. The mood was perhaps best expressed by a letter to the editor of the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, which asked: "What are the claws for that hold the arrows in our Great Seal of the United States? Are they real, or are they just for show?"

Two publications have recently bordered their editorials in black in honor of the victims of the rising tide of terrorist activities levied against U.S. citizens. The first editorial appeared in the July 1 WALL STREET JOURNAL, entitled simply "Robert Dean Stethem, 1961-1985":

Robert Stethem's last hours are described by his seatmate, Ruth Henderson, a 16-year old Australian released shortly afterward:

"They singled him out because he was American and a soldier.... They dragged him out of his seat, tied his hands and then beat him up. I watched as they kicked him in the head. They kicked him in the face and knee caps and kept kicking him until they had broken all his ribs. Then they tried to knock him out with the butt of a pistol--they kept hitting him over the head but he was very strong and they couldn't knock him out.... Then they dumped him back in his seat next to me and left him for ages. I tried to nurse him but there wasn't a great deal I could do. Later they dragged him away and I believe shot him."...

There will be no yellow ribbons for Robbie Stethem. With the release of his fellow hostages finally completed, the nation certainly must join in profound relief at a safe end to their ordeal. But it is no time for celebration. Instead, the Republic should contemplate the courageous death of a young hero, the humiliations just undergone by the nation he served, and the likelihood that there will be more martyrs in the future as terrorism goes unpunished. Indeed, his commander-in-chief should ask himself a private question. In the dead of the night, in response to the hijackers' final demand of no retaliation, the State Department delivered up a carefully worded statement. The question is whether, despite the president's words about justice...in the end this cryptic affirmation will not prove to be exactly what the kidnappers claim, and amnesty for Robert Stethem's murderers.

The second editorial framed in black appeared in the July 15, 1985, edition of the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, entitled: "Terrorism's Toll on America, 1980-1985." In it, David Gergen, contributing columnist and one-time Reagan staff aide, wrote the following message, which was included in the center of the page, surrounded by the names of all the recent victims of anti-U.S. violence:

The toll rises higher, higher yet--at least 320 Americans, their names shown here, murdered by terrorists since the 1980s began. Except for suicide drivers, not one drop of terrorist blood, apparently, has been spilled in return. When will terrorists pay the same price as their victims? How many more of our citizens must die? How much longer before America strikes back--an eye for an eye? The nation mourns...and waits.

In his July 26 syndicated column, Norman Podhoretz, the editor of COMMENTARY magazine, called President Reagan a "pitifully crippled hawk." But part of the crippling, according to the July 8 WALL STREET JOURNAL, is due to the maze of Congressional restrictions placed upon executive action. This affects not only the war against terrorism but all U.S. military activity:

All the available evidence from the past two U.S. administrations leads to the conclusion that short of total war, the departments of the executive branch responsible for foreign policy--the White House, State and Defense--are highly averse to military action outside the American continent.

In retrospect, Grenada appears to have been an anomaly, a unique event precipitated in large part by the forceful will of Dominica's remarkable prime minister, Eugenia Charles (who, by the way, has just won a big popular vote). The defense buildup of the past four years is intended to fight World War III, an event many senior military officers doubt will occur in their lifetime. Public statements by Defense Secretary Weinberger and senior uniformed officers make it clear that the Pentagon has little interest in deploying its assets in any contingency falling between Grenada and World War III.

The danger in this posture is that it...provides our adversaries with an unacceptably large margin in which to maneuver freely.



The world's terrorists are actively operating in that margin. So are the Warsaw Pact nations and Libyas that train, finance and promote such insurgencies. This sort of activity puts tremendous pressure on U.S. friends, such as the ASEAN nations, Persian Gulf moderates or even NATO....

At bottom we are convinced that the Pentagon's reluctance to involve itself in mid-level operations is a rational response to the recent behavior of Congress. To a man and woman, Congress will deny that it is damaging our military capability. But we do in fact have a War Powers Resolution that is constantly invoked and debated in these circumstances. And as to the inadequacy of our intelligence-gathering capability that is so talked about on occasions like this or the recent Walker spy case, we have had Mr. Reagan's Executive Order 12333 revising Jimmy Carter's Executive Order 12036, both forged amid a congressional tumult over CIA activities.

Last week the State Department was reduced to saying it had asked the CIA's lawyers to provide an interpretation of these regulations before the administration made any decisions about pursuing Robert Stethem's murderers. The paramount operations consideration in this country today isn't whether it will work, but whether some congressional staffer will be able to say it's illegal. Will a week's worth of front pages and evening news shows lead with arguments over whether the president has "broken the law"? The commander in chief has become the lawyer in chief.

The series of House votes just prior to the congressional recess attempting to detail the conditions under which the president may take military action in Nicaragua displays how the congressional system naturally tends toward a tangle of legalisms, resolutions and amendments.... With everyone's mind focused by the Beirut kidnapping, we wish the members of Congress would stand back and take a look at the total system of political disincentives they've created for any Pentagon operations planner....

Now is the appropriate time for Congress's responsible members to explicitly raise the issue of modifying or repealing this legislation. If they do not, we are left with the status quo, and the status quo has obviously emboldened this country's enemies. At some point in the future, that continuing danger may threaten not merely 39 of us, but all of us.

The July 15 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT ran a special cover story on "How The World Views America." It is a twisted tale of admiration, envy and hatred. Over a quarter-trillion dollars in foreign aid since 1945--what has it produced in the long run? Here are excerpts from that special segment:

The TWA hijacking crisis and its rabidly anti-American roots reminded all sides that the United States stands today as the most admired, most hated nation on earth....

Even teenage Moslem extremists who held the plane hostages in Beirut were ambivalent toward their sworn enemies. "They all

loved 'Dallas,'" recalls Clinton Suggs, 29, a Navy diver, "They'd lie on our mattresses with us and watch it."...

Around much of the globe, the U.S. is prized for loyalty to its allies--at a cost of some 520,000 American dead since the start of World War II. No less appreciated is the country's generosity in times of severe economic stress--a total of about 238 billion dollars in assistance over the last four decades, not counting millions more in public and private help for victims of the current African famine....

Like it or not, there is no escaping U.S. influence. America exports 218 billion dollars' worth of goods a year--12 percent of the world's total--and imports 341 billion dollars' worth, or 16 percent of global shipments. U.S. corporations employ--or exploit, depending on the viewpoint--more than 7 million foreign nationals overseas. Some 339,000 foreign students attend college in America. Nearly 524,000 American military personnel are posted in at least 25 nations.

For all the resentment fueled by American wealth, millions abroad seek to live the American dream. In the streets of Moscow, it might be a pair of blue jeans; in Haiti, the latest Michael Jackson tape; in Paris, a fashionable cowboy hat.... Evidence of the way America is esteemed abroad: Millions of people are lined up to come to the United States. Waiting lists for immigrant visas exceed 336,000 in the Philippines; 329,000 in Mexico; 155,000 in India, and 123,000 in South Korea.

Millions of Moslems accept the portrait painted by Iran's Khomeini, depicting America as the "great Satan" responsible for all the woes afflicting the Middle East.... While they may not support extremist terrorism, most people in the Arab world bitterly resent American support of Israel and reflect that resentment in endless burnings of American flags in street demonstrations....

Says James Roach, a professor of government at the University of Texas in Austin: "There are now two generations of Palestinians who have grown up in refugee camps or communities where a childhood litany has centered on how they were driven out and how America helped Israel. If people are barraged every day with the Ayatollah and Qadhafi telling them what Satans we are, a lot of people grow up believing that."...

Even some Israelis are critical. Yitzhak Zeller, assistant director of a Jerusalem youth hostel who left the U.S. two years ago to find his roots in Israel, says: "America today is vile and corrupt. It's a new Roman Empire, at its peak of greatness from which it will collapse."...

For impoverished millions eking out survival in the developing world, the United States towers as a prosperous giant locked in a wasteful arms race while they languish in misery.... Still, in the Third World, many envy America's opportunity. Syed Mushtaw Murshed, a civil servant in New Delhi, has seen his chauffeur's

son win a scholarship at Princeton. "I've advised him to stay on there," says Murshed. "No other country offers such scope to talent. I'm told I would be a second-class citizen if I went there--but I'd still go."...

Nowhere is Uncle Sam portrayed in more menacing tones than in neighboring Latin America.... Twenty-eight of 77 anti-U.S. terrorist acts last year came in Latin America--the most of any region in the world. "Another Vietnam awaits you," warned leftist guerrillas in El Salvador after murdering 13 people, four of them U.S. Marines, at a sidewalk cafe. Hostility is spreading across a region saddled with a 300-billion-dollar debt that forces nations to export almost 28 billion dollars annually to foreign banks. Says Lucio Garcia del Solar, Argentina's ambassador to the U.S.: "That is a greater danger to the security interests of the U.S. than guerrilla wars in Central America...."

Americans are helpful, friendly, kind, cheerful, brave, clean, strong, generous and sometimes even reverent. So why doesn't everybody love us? Because Americans are arrogant, ignorant, immature, suspicious, loud, smug and--above all--rich. Conflicting views about Americans are disturbing not only to people abroad but to Americans themselves....

Americans' ignorance of foreign languages is a crippling factor in dealing with other nations, according to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters. "The failure to communicate with foreigners in their own language prevents them from understanding us as we really are," says Walters, who is fluent in eight tongues. "It makes it difficult for us to project our real purposes to other people."...

It is respect, rather than love, that many Americans want from the world. Ambassador Walters of the United Nations sums up a lifetime of global travels: "If one seeks only to be loved, one cannot do the difficult things that must be done to pursue human freedom. I think, on balance, I would prefer that the world respect more than merely like us. If we could have both, it would be even better."

The U.S. NEWS special concluded with an interview with British journalist Paul Johnson, who explained why "there's a certain quiet glee" over U.S. troubles:

Q. Mr. Johnson, why do you think the world has such a love-hate relationship with the United States?

A. America is the richest, the most powerful country in the world. People in the West know in their hearts they're very dependent on America and are, in their rational moods, grateful. But, if you're dependent on someone you tend to resent them. So when America gets into a bit of difficulty, as over the hostage crisis in Lebanon, there's a certain quiet glee.

Q. But in some parts of the world, dislike of America goes beyond envy--

A. Of course, that applies to the Middle East, probably to a lot of Latin American countries and to a certain number of African countries. There, the hatred of America's power and the feeling that it epitomizes the more-corrupt and brutal side of the West is paramount.

Q. Is that portrait justified?

A. If you look back over the whole of history, you can't come across any other leading power--with the possible exception of Britain in the 19th century--which has exercised its power in the world in such an unselfish, prudent and sensible manner as America has over the past 40 years.

Q. Why doesn't much of the world see America in that light?

A. Partly, I think, because the America projected by its own media is not favorable. Take the image of the CIA: What many American newspapers, magazines and television networks project is a kind of worldwide conspiracy by the CIA. I think that is one reason why American aircraft get hijacked and American citizens get kidnapped--because this false image of America is actually believed by humble, ordinary people out there.

Q. Is there anything the U.S. might do to counter these negative feelings?

A. The worst thing is to go around asking to be loved. That invites contempt. The best thing Americans can do is do what they believe right, do it firmly and above all do it quietly without a lot of shouting and arguing. The hate element doesn't come to the surface when America is acting strongly. It comes up when America appears to be weak and indecisive.

The point made by Mr. Johnson about the media and the CIA is especially critical. The July 14, 1985 AIM REPORT newsletter (published by Accuracy in Media) pointed out the connection between a recent story in the WASHINGTON POST and the TWA hijacking. The POST had attributed a car-bombing incident in the Beirut suburb of Bir al Abed, which killed 80 Shiite Moslems, to a counter-insurgency unit trained and supported by the CIA. When the TWA hijackers murdered Navy diver Robert Stethem, one of the murderers was heard to say, in an answer as to why he did it: "Did you forget the Bir al Abed massacre?" Thus the unsubstantiated POST story (which infuriated State Department officials) had possibly put American lives in the Middle East in jeopardy.

Regardless of the exact causes for each incident, America is hated more and more. Her enemies express "quiet glee" at the least, open denunciation and reviling at worst. The passages in Lamentations 1:17, 2:2-3, 13, 15 and 3:46 come to mind, perhaps best summarized in chapter 1:2: "Among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies" (RSV).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau