

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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ON THE VERY BRINK OF NUCLEAR W A R !

by Herbert W. Armstrong

FEW seem to realize it. But when President Carter said recently the situation with Russia is more serious than at any time since World War II, he made the understatement of the century.

We are in fact, at the very brink of NUCLEAR WORLD WAR III! It is not going to happen--but let me tell you the situation the U.S. government has bungled its way into.

It is very evident that President Carter has never UNDERSTOOD Russian Communist philosophy and basic point of view. All their thinking is from this viewpoint. It's the place where their "camera" is set. They do not see things as we see them. They do not think as we think.

Let me give you a brief summary. I have said before that more than 50 years ago, I studied thoroughly a so-called "Home Study Course" in Communist philosophy and thinking. How could it have been available to me and not to a man who rose to become PRESIDENT?

It all began with two men, Karl Marx, and Friedrich Engels. They were German. They, even as I myself have, saw that this world's governments and economic systems were wrong. But they did not really know GOD --they hatched an atheistic society--and they did not have UNDERSTANDING, as God has given me, of The BIBLE!

Their "camera" was set to view the world as MAN views it. They could discern much that was WRONG. But their "camera" was not focused on GOD, and they did not see GOD'S answers to this world's evils.

So, as usually happens in human thinking shut off from God, they had a warped view. They envisioned a world of Communism. They saw that the world's religions were the "opium of the people," so their minds saw no farther than to ABOLISH religion--not to seek the TRUE God and His teaching.

Then, about 1914-1918 came along Vladimir Lenin, a Russian, who had studied and accepted enthusiastically and even fanatically the atheistic ideas of Marx and Engels. Lenin turned those theoretical philosophies into a workable NEW form of GOVERNMENT, eliminating ownership of private property--all of which would be owned by the State (the Politburo group at the helm), and eliminating religion. To accomplish such sweeping changes necessitated a CAMPAIGN OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, a most essential factor. The PEOPLE had to be induced by education to give up their property and their religion--the two things closest to their hearts.

Vladimir Lenin must be accounted to have possessed the qualities of GREATNESS, if not holiness which he abhorred, or RIGHTNESS! It was during World War I, in 1917, that Lenin led his band of fanatically-dedicated men, including, originally, Joseph Stalin, and Leon Trotsky. The latter defected to South America.

It all started with an inner core, the original founders of the Communist Party.

Lenin's idea was not alone to conquer the minds--that is, the pocket-books and the hearts of the Russian people--but those of the WHOLE WORLD.

As Jesus Christ is to rule the WHOLE WORLD at His now soon coming, Satan moved men of the human GREATNESS of men like Marx and Lenin, to attempt to beat Christ to it!

Therefore the Communist PARTY was formed, not merely as the ONE political Party to be allowed in Russia--but an INTERNATIONAL PARTY active in all nations!

Before World War II the Communist Party in the United States was making great headway. They began infiltrating our colleges and universities. If they could not "convert" professors, they worked on students who would become teachers later. Thus they were recruiting TEACHERS to teach their doctrine all over the United States.

And don't think they were overlooking Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, and Germany where the idea was first hatched. But they did sow the seeds in China, and left it for the Chinese Communists, like Mao Tse-tung, and Chow En-lai and present Vice-Chairman Tan Zehn-Lin, to organize a Chinese Communist Party and put two of the three largest nations on earth under Communism. However, the Chinese Communism is different, and Vice-Chairman Tan told me it is the Russians who have departed from original, pure Communism. But you will see a very large statue of Lenin, along with the late Mao, in Peking. Communism has also made big inroads in Southeast Asia. They almost took over both Singapore and Indonesia (fifth most populous nation), which just barely escaped Communism only a few years ago.

The GOAL is to bring the WHOLE WORLD under Communism. The Russians admit conditions in their country are not yet perfect--but they saw the real benefits of Communism cannot be experienced and enjoyed until the whole world has become Communist.

Now as to Russian Communist strategy. They admit they cannot conquer all nations without one final all-out military war. But to them that is the LAST RESORT, but that is the primary reason for keeping the Soviet Union military strength at either number one or number two in the world.

But their first approach is EDUCATION. It is not alone education in Communism. It is, first, education on the EVILS of other systems (which are many). Second is the advantages of Communism. For example, they knew how to plunge New York City into total darkness one night. All electricity was cut off. Subway trains stopped in their dark tubes--passengers unable to move from their cars.

Then comes guerrilla warfare. This was used in South Vietnam, and our U.S. military forces were untrained and no match for that kind of war. WE DID NOT WIN--we pulled out! The Communists have taken what American soldiers fought and died to protect! I wonder WHEN America will WAKE UP!

Among Communist teachings which I read in the U.S. Communist Party study course (about 50 years ago) are that the END justifies any means. Communists are taught to lie, to misrepresent, to lie under oath, to use any pretense or deception to win a point.

YOU'D BE SURPRISED if you knew how many Russian Communists are kept as full-time spies in the United Nations building in New York! Or for that matter, even as full-time career diplomats in the State Department in Washington. The man who approved and issued my Press pass at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, a leader in the State Department, was later tried and convicted of being a Communist agent.

So much for that brief sketch of the history and methods of Communism.

But WHAT NOW? In what manner are we sitting on a whole flock of smoking Hydrogen Bombs?

President Carter first put a grain embargo on Russia. Of course that hurt some, but they expected that, and decided the results were worth it. Next he has virtually cancelled the Olympic games to be held there this summer. Sure, that hurt some--but as I said before, they took that as a calculated risk. The United Nations passed a resolution against them. But they have felt the stakes are high enough to be worth it. Now the oil-rich Arab nations passed a resolution against them. But I can hear Mr. Brezhnev saying with a smile, "Well, how many divisions do the Arab nations have?"

But where the DANGER lies is this: Now, President Carter has said that the Persian Gulf is an American VITAL INTEREST. He has threatened even military action if the Russians violate it by moving into the Persian Gulf.

Look at a map. Most all oil-producing Arab nations export their oil through the Persian Gulf! Whoever controls the Persian Gulf controls the world's OIL!

Those stakes are pretty high! The Kremlin knows it! How far will they gamble?

Look at the record. Under President John Kennedy the U.S. used military force to BLOCKADE CUBA! Moscow knew that was only the first step. A President who dared do that was COMMITTED to go FARTHER if the Russians engaged U.S. blockading ships. And THAT would have been a war IN THE U.S. AREA OF THE WORLD!

What have I always said? 1) the Russians DO NOT want a nuclear all-out war with the U.S. yet! So the Russians backed off, for, 2) they will back off in face of an equal or superior military force. THAT'S THE ONLY LANGUAGE THEY UNDERSTAND!

Recently in President Carter's Administration, it became known the Russians had armed military men in Cuba. Mr. Carter warned them--a sort

of slap on the wrist. They only smiled and left their troops--and they are STILL THERE! There are other times recently when Mr. Carter has talked, and DONE NOTHING.

You may be sure the Russians are weighing all this carefully. IF they proceed now through Pakistan into the Persian Gulf, WOULD the U.S. fight? Frankly I doubt it. In any war short of NUCLEAR power, we cannot match the Russians in the Persian Gulf--in THEIR back yard!

Yet if the Russians do go ahead, the only kind of war we can match them in is ALL-OUT NUCLEAR WAR. The U.S. should start by blasting both Moscow and Leningrad with H-Bombs! It would be that or the U.S. hangs her head in shame before the world.

WE ARE JUST THAT CLOSE THIS MINUTE TO A WAR THAT COULD ERASE ALL HUMAN LIFE FROM THIS PLANET. For no matter what the U.S. can do, the Soviet Union can rain nuclear bombs and DESTROY New York City, Washington D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Dallas, San Francisco and L.A., and many other cities in between!

WHAT WILL THE KREMLIN NOW DECIDE?

Knowing their policies as I do, I think they will simply stay where they are--keep moving troops into Afghanistan, make it 100% solid, and bide their time. As I said before, THEY ARE IN NO HURRY. They are not on a tight time schedule. But I DO NOT expect them to move their troops back out of Afghanistan!

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WHERE DOES THE U.S. GO
FROM HERE?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The world right now stands on the brink of the FINAL N U C L E A R WAR! There has never yet been a NUCLEAR war! Do you grasp the gravity of the world situation at this minute?

World leaders all know the probability that a nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia can very likely ERASE ALL MANKIND FROM THE EARTH! It means the END of human existence!

Where is this world at the moment--as I write, February 1, 1980?

For more than 90 days the U.S. has been so absorbed with the plight of the 50 hostages in Iran, the government has not realized that the REAL DANGER has been Russia all the time. Of course the R E A L D A N G E R is something else of which the Washington politicians are still unaware. Yet it is now MOVING!

President Carter warned the Soviet against invading Afghanistan. He called Mr. Brezhnev personally on the HOT LINE! Brezhnev considered Mr. Carter to be a weak President who would do nothing. Soviet troops, up to 100,000 or more, poured into Afghanistan.

Mr. Carter began to do something. He put a grain embargo against Russia into effect. He threatened to boycott the Olympic games, scheduled to be held in Moscow this summer. To the Russians these games are a big government project. All other countries may enter only AMATEUR athletes. In Russia the system is different. The government runs EVERYTHING, even athletics. Though the Soviets call their athletes amateurs, they are actually in government employ and in real fact are PROS! Then Mr. Carter set a deadline for boycotting the Olympic games--February 20. But even the AAU has approved the boycott and it is now a certainty.

Washington has gotten a resolution through the United Nations against Russia. But they laugh at that wrist-slap. Nothing but equal or stronger MILITARY FORCE speaks their language! Sanctions, resolutions--they laugh at!

But now Mr. Carter has said that entrance of the Soviet military forces into the Persian Gulf MEANS WAR!

Now WAIT A MINUTE!!! Brezhnev and his fellows at the Kremlin will THINK THAT ONE OVER! So must Mr. Carter's Administration!

1) The U.S. does not want to fight a nuclear war with Russia. Russia does not want to fight a nuclear war with the U.S. They could DESTROY EACH OTHER!

2) The U.S. does not have the military ability to fight Russia in her own back yard--the Persian Gulf--so far from the U.S. American forces would either LOSE, or be forced to turn such war into a NUCLEAR war! The Kremlin, of course, knows that also.

3) President Carter has DRAWN THE LINE. If the Soviet crosses it--it's WAR! (Or else a TOTAL loss of face and prestige in the world). Now what will the Soviets DO? It's their move! Will they decide Mr. Carter is too weak to back up his threat of WAR, and decide they may go ahead and get away with it? I do not think so. I think that is a chance the Kremlin will not take. I think, as I wrote before, the Russian Bear will slow down its pace, go ahead and make their intervention in Afghanistan solid and complete, keep poised, READY to invade Yugoslavia, or Germany, Austria, France, AS A THREAT in a stepped-up WAR OF NERVES!

Now, meanwhile, the IMPORTANT consideration is WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EUROPE?

The President has sent two high emissaries to try to swing European nations (NATO members) over to the U.S. side--to boycott the Olympics, and refuse to sell Russia grain. These two emissaries have met a very cold shoulder--except in Britain. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, has said, "We are WITH you. We stand together with you!" to the U.S.

But, for example, how does Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn look at the picture? Russian forces are right at his eastern border, and more being massed there. They could cross over in massive force within thirty minutes with no notice! Germany, along with other European nations, has no military force capable of defending against such Russian attack. The European nations have relied on U.S. military might to PROTECT THEM from the Russians who are right at their eastern frontier, and now massing heavy troops there! It seems NATO has about fallen into discard.

Herr Schmidt has taken a course that is humiliating for a German who fought in Hitler's army to take. He is unwilling to stand up with the U.S. against Russia if Soviet forces cross Carter's line at the Persian Gulf.


The same attitude is taken in France, Italy, Austria, Belgium. But as I said, that is a humiliating stand for European leaders to take. They take it because in this chess power play Russia has massed forces threatening West European nations, as well as threatening to enter and control the Persian Gulf. And the Persian Gulf control would give the Russians CONTROL OF MOST OF THE WORLD'S OIL!

Now do not for a moment suppose that West European leaders are going to take this humiliating stand, refusing to line up against Russia, without countermeasures!

You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about HOW and HOW SOON they may UNITE and provide a united EUROPEAN MILITARY FORCE so they can DEFEND THEMSELVES! And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And WHO WILL THEY BLAME for their humiliation and their necessity NOW to have a UNITED EUROPE, with a united GOVERNMENT, a COMMON CURRENCY, and a COMMON MILITARY FORCE AS GREAT OR GREATER THAN EITHER THE U.S.S.R. OR THE U.S.A.? They will blame the U.S.! And when they are strong enough to assert themselves, they will first attack Britain for standing firm with the U.S., and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!

SO SAYS ALMIGHTY GOD IN HIS WORD!

They can unite ONLY through the Vatican. It will be a CHURCH-STATE union. It won't last long, but will create HAVOC unprecedented!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Comments From Pastor's Reports

Here are several more very encouraging comments from the Pastor's Reports showing overall growth, enthusiasm, and a spirit of rejuvenation among the churches.

Harry E. Sleder, Everett, WA: "The Everett Church is a new church (1 1/2 years) solidly supporting Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as Jesus Christ guides His Church through Mr. Armstrong."

Carl McNair, Milwaukee North, WI: "I concur with recent comments in Pastor General's Report, etc. that the brethren seem 'turned on' by improvements in the administration of the Church, by improvement in Mr. Armstrong's health and the success of his trips, and a sense of awareness of prophecy 'speeding up.'"