

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

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PASTOR GENERAL

May 16, 1985

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers of Christ:

I am writing from my desk aboard our aircraft high over the Mediterranean flying from Jerusalem to Munich, West Germany. On this current trip after a stopover in London, we flew to the very cradle of civilization in Damascus, Syria, probably the oldest city still inhabited, then to Amman, Jordan, and Jerusalem, where this present civilization will end and Christ will set up the capital of the world tomorrow -- the everlasting Kingdom of God and a world of peace and happiness.

Keep your eyes on the Middle East, for the final world crisis will center on that area. While we were there, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was also there, following President Ronald Reagan's much-publicized European trip. Secretary Shultz was in Cairo, Jerusalem and Amman working for a new breakthrough in the Middle Eastern strife and especially the question of the West Bank in Palestine.

In Jerusalem, I had a personal meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres. He had a meeting a couple days before with Secretary Shultz. I asked him how he viewed the Middle East question as of the moment. He replied, "I am very hopeful we may have a break- through soon."

Mayor Teddy Kollek hosted a luncheon for me and visited with Aaron Dean and me in our hotel suite. The Europeans are very seriously concerned about President Reagan's strategic defense initiative and his Star Wars technology. Even if the Star Wars defense destroyed Soviet missiles en route to the United States, because of Europe's close proximity to Russia, the Soviets could launch shorter range missiles with far less time to impact at an altitude too low for the satellite defense system to destroy them. The Europeans fear this would leave Europe defenseless against Soviet nuclear attack.

The very fact that Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany has agreed to go ahead with President Reagan's plan seems likely to turn the rest of Europe more strongly against the United States. Slowly but surely events are working toward a coming conflict between Europe and the United States as prophesied in the Bible. U.S. Secretary of Labor William Brock has issued a public statement threatening a trade war between the United States and Europe. All these events are tending to drive Europe and the U.S. further and further apart.

Trouble is definitely on the horizon as God has forewarned in prophecy.

We still have much work to do and not much time to do it. We are nearing the time when there will be a famine of hearing the Word of God proclaimed -- the night is coming when as prophecy says, "No man can work" in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Many doors are being opened to us for shouting this last warning message to this dying world. New television stations in different parts of the world, and the way is now open to increase The PLAIN TRUTH circulation past eight million and upward to twenty or more million subscribers -- but it does require more and more money, and we cannot afford to take advantage of these doors Christ is opening before us without increased income.

Our ministers all over the world are swamped with calls for counsel about baptism. We have many Ambassador College graduates ready to be ordained and put into the ministry if tithes and offerings make possible to put them into the full-time active work. I do ask you all to pray earnestly that God will make possible to send forth more laborers into the field. The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers too few. We should thank God for the harvest waiting to be reaped.

My new book Mystery of the Ages is now in the hands of the printers. I finished the very last of writing it in Jerusalem day before yesterday.

With deep love, in Jesus' name,
Herbert W. Armstrong