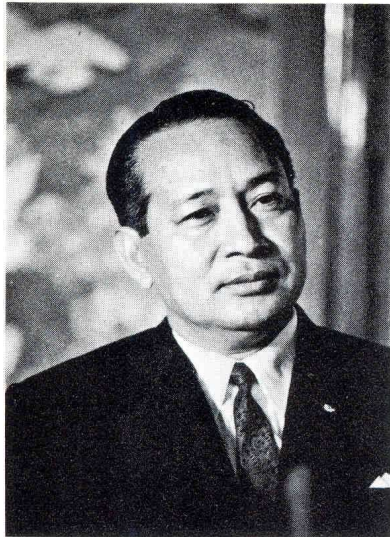


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding



GENERAL SUHARTO
President of Indonesia



About Our Cover

The immediate threat of Communism in Indonesia came to an abrupt halt in 1965 when General Suharto and the Indonesian army crushed an attempted Red coup. The following weeks witnessed a massive purge of Communists and leftists in the government, the armed forces, the press, and educational institutions. In March 1967 Suharto formally succeeded the late President Sukarno in office. Since then, President Suharto has been guiding his nation of 3,000 islands and about 125 million people back from the brink of bankruptcy to a position of stability. Indonesia today has the capacity to become one of the two (with Japan) dominant powers in the western Pacific. For an exclusive interview with the man at Indonesia's helm, see this month's "Personal."

Keystone Photo

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Personal from



Meeting with President Suharto of Indonesia — Vietnam and Far East Peril

CEYLON (Now SRI LANKA), Aug. 4:

AT LAST, the long-awaited, twice-postponed meeting with President Suharto took place, yesterday morning, in Djakarta.

We flew on here today, en route to Jerusalem, where 80 of our Ambassador College students have been working this summer on the giant archaeological project adjoining the temple mount. Then a stopover at our campus in England, a luncheon visit with King Leopold, and then back to Pasadena.

At this point we are approximately halfway around the world on the present trip. We really had a most interesting and profitable meeting with General Suharto. There is a vital connection between the Vietnam war and President Suharto's government in Indonesia.

At the time when the Vietnam war was being stepped up, during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, the main purpose of United States involvement was to prevent a Communist military takeover of the entire Southeast Asian area. The American policy was based on the "Domino Theory." If the Reds took over Vietnam, then in rapid succession, the indication then was, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia would have fallen to

the Communists in rapid succession. And from there Australia would fall.

It was known — I have stated it many times on the air and in *The PLAIN TRUTH* — that the Communist strategy for conquering the United States was by way of Asia and South-east Asia.

Why the true facts were never made plain to the American people, I could never understand. But at that time, President Sukarno of Indonesia was veering perilously toward the left. Singapore and Malaysia seemed about to be taken over by Communism. It seemed better to fight Communism in Vietnam and stop it before the "domino" states toppled one by one, than to wait and have an all-out nuclear war by invasion of the United States. Better fight them with a SMALL war on Asian soil, than in a frightful nuclear war on our own soil.

But in Singapore, Prime Minister Lee outsmarted the Communists, and in Indonesia, the fifth most populous nation on earth, General Suharto established a military dictatorship, both strongly fortified against Communism.
(Continued on page 46)

PRESIDENT AND MRS. SUHARTO of Indonesia. This autographed photo was a gift from the President to Herbert W. Armstrong.





MEETING IN INDONESIA. Indonesia's President Suharto greets Herbert Armstrong in Djakarta with a warm handshake.

been desirous of seeing me all along, and this was made doubly evident by the warmth of the reception at this meeting yesterday morning.

If you could be with me in meetings with heads of governments in different parts of the world, you would have an altogether new conception of the insurmountable PROBLEMS facing this whole very sick world today. These heads of governments tell me of problems beyond their human power to solve.

Accompanying me yesterday morning were Mr. Stanley R. Rader, our general counsel, and Professor Osamu Gotoh, Chairman of our Asian Studies program at Ambassador College.

Before I tell you of the things President Suharto and I discussed, I think you might be interested in a brief description of our arrival at the Presidential office building in Djakarta.

Yesterday morning, at 8:45, we arrived at the Presidential office building in Djakarta. Immediately it was evident that the President was expecting us. At the entrance of the building we walked into a battery of official and press photographers, and a number of Presidential staff members. The Chief of Protocol stepped forward to greet us. The signing of the official guest book was carefully documented by a staccato of flashbulbs.

First we walked into a reception room and talked briefly with the Chief of Protocol and the Presidential interpreter, while awaiting General Suharto's arrival.

Remember that President Suharto is the leader of the world's fifth largest nation in population — with a population in Indonesia of approximately 125 million. Indonesia is one of the richest countries in the world in natural resources, but, as yet, one of the least developed. Incidentally, you might understand better where and what Indonesia is when I tell you

Personal from

Herbert Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

nism. With the United States pouring enough military power into South Vietnam to hold the Communist forces of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong at bay, Thailand and Malaysia also became fortified against Communist inroads.

Today President Nixon is bringing the American boys back home. The "domino" danger seems, for the

present, a thing of the past.

But what about the immediate future? I wanted to know what President Suharto's plans were for keeping the Communist forces out of Indonesia. Any Red takeover there would imperil the entire free world. That is a major reason why President Suharto is of vital concern to the United States, Canada, Britain and Western Europe.

The first time I had a meeting set up with the General he had been called to Europe. The second time a meeting was planned, the King of Thailand was in Djakarta on a state visit, and of course that required the full time of the President. He had



PRESIDENT SUHARTO receives a gift of Steuben crystal from Herbert W. Armstrong as an aide (left), Stanley R. Rader, General Counsel of Ambassador College, and Professor Osamu Gotoh, head of Ambassador College's Asian Studies Department look on. Below, President Suharto reciprocates with a gift of his own.

we used to call it the East Indies. It composes many islands, the largest of which are Java, Borneo, Sumatra, and the western part of New Guinea. If you have an atlas, I suggest you look at the maps to locate this important nation of Indonesia. Djakarta is a short distance south of the equator, and not too far northwest of Australia. It is in the far Southeast Asian district, south of Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. I know how most people are unfamiliar with geography and the location of continents and nations on this earth on which we live.

Shortly, we were ushered into the President's rather large and well-appointed office. The smiling President met us at the doorway with a *very* warm greeting.

I thanked him for giving official approval for our forthcoming scientific expedition into the Irian, that is, the western portion of New Guinea and for the cooperation given by the Indonesian government to King Leopold of Belgium, when he was there planning the expedition. I've mentioned previously the joint participation of Ambassador College with the Belgian Foundation, headed by King Leopold, for the exploration of land inhabited by Aboriginal peoples,



the study of these peoples, and other activities in the field of anthropology.

We then moved over to a seating area, where I was seated next to the President. I then presented him, as is customary in visiting a head of state, with a small gift — a fine piece of American Steuben crystal. This presentation brought on a flurry of activity by the official photographers — as

there had been when I first shook hands with the President.

I asked General Suharto his views on the effect of President Nixon's visits to Peking in Red China and to Moscow, and the admission of Communist China to the United Nations. He said he welcomed, of course, the state of more cordial relations between the United States and Red China, and the tranquility that hope-

fully will follow in the Southeast Asian area. Naturally trade with Red China would be welcomed by Indonesia, even as the United States, Japan, Britain, France and other Western industrialized nations are seeking it.

But President Suharto made it very plain to me that his guard was up! He emphasized that he views all moves and statements made by the People's Republic of China as being made, at least in part, for purposes inconsistent with those stated, or at least implied. He is very conscious of the underlying motives and goals of Communism, and of its methods — the overthrow of *all other governments*.

However, he stressed the fact that the threat to his country of subversion from *within*, for the present, is far greater than the threat from without. He mentioned a number of times how diligent he must be in his own country against subversion and Communist propaganda, because of the presence of about one-and-a-half million people of Chinese descent, who are citizens of Indonesia — another million-and-a-half of Chinese descent who are STATELESS — and a quarter of a million who identify themselves mostly with Communist China.

I told the President how pleased I was to learn of his concern about subversion in the free nations, since peoples and leaders in other areas of the world are sometimes tragically unaware of this living threat to their freedom, their way of life, and their very existence. In too many countries, instead of having their own organized educational propaganda system to sell their people on their own country, they do nothing along that line themselves but leave the door wide open for Communist propaganda.

I didn't say this to General Suharto, but I do feel really pained when I notice that if a Communist or even a PINK sympathizer makes an anti-American statement, the television and radio news media and the daily newspapers hasten to give it prominent space. But we hear little if

any of the RIGHT kind of educational propaganda encouraging LOYALTY to our own country. I think it is BECAUSE about the only propaganda we have heard in the United States is ANTI-American, intended to discredit and to injure. For that reason the very word "propaganda" has come to mean, to most people, the spreading of untruths intended to discredit and to harm. But TRUTH may also be propagated, or publicized, designed to *inform correctly* and to HELP, not to injure. On *The World Tomorrow* program on radio and television, and in *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, we are engaged in THAT kind of TRUTH-spreading — designed to enlighten, to BUILD UP, not tear down and destroy — to HELP — to BENEFIT — to DO GOOD. Others sometimes try to *misrepresent* and falsely smear *us* — to persecute — to injure and harm — but we NEVER intend to use this great POWER of mass-communication to harm, injure, or discredit *anyone!*

President Suharto *explained* his country's policy of National Resilience. This is a program of united mobilized *people's* efforts to improve the country's economic, social and military position, in order to withstand successfully the continuous effort by subversive forces, supported, if not directed, in large part from outside the country.

Indonesia is largely *one* of the undeveloped and very poor countries. Mr. Suharto emphasized the efforts being made to relieve the conditions of poverty and misery and discontent — and the continuing effort by the government to show the people the *proof* — the evidence — of the benefits of the national policies. He urged that other nations in Southeast Asia adopt the same policy of National Resilience to insure their social, economic and military growth in the face of subversive elements, and to improve the standard of living of their peoples, and promote peace everywhere.

As this man, responsible for the welfare and the future of some 125

million people, continued to tell me his problems, and his efforts for *peace* and for the betterment of the vast number of his people, I had to *think*, in my own mind, of the *magnitude* of these problems — and the *complexity* of the thousands of factors with which he is trying to cope.

General Suharto is having to work to try to improve, or change, the conditions of poverty, illiteracy, and misery of the vast majority of 125 million people *within* the framework of THIS WORLD'S pattern and ways of society — its ways, traditions and customs of living — the ways and traditional methods of dealing with other nations.

I've said hundreds of times, everything is a matter of CAUSE and EFFECT. It all started back in the Garden of Eden with the incident of the forbidden fruit. Try to leave God the Creator out of the picture, and you are in a helpless and *hopeless* condition. I've explained time and again how the Creator God set in motion an invisible spiritual Law — a Law as INVISIBLE as the laws of gravity and inertia — and as relentlessly SURE. An all-wise and all-loving Creator designed this Law to CAUSE peace, happiness, abundant well-being. This Law WORKS! Live by it, and things go well. Live by it, and you have PEACE — you have prosperity, you have happiness!

But humanity has NOT been living by that inexorable Law. Humanity has been selfishly transgressing it — and consequently humanity has brought on itself poverty, ignorance, filth and squalor, misery, sickness and disease. In our Western world there has been education instead of illiteracy — but what *kind* of education? Education CONTRARY to that Law. And in our Western world, which we fancy to be EDUCATED, we have not been educated in THE WAY that produces PEACE, or HAPPINESS, or the truly abundant life. We have broken homes, moral degeneracy, crime, and pollution of our air, our water, our soil, *and* our *minds*.

That inexorable spiritual Law I call the way of "GIVE," but the whole world lives by the way of "GET." That wrong way of life, for some 6,000 years, has brought on all our evils. President Suharto faces the evils of poverty, illiteracy, degeneracy of mind and body, people living, or rather eking out an existence, in misery and the lowest of living standards. President Suharto didn't CAUSE these evils. They were there before he was born. He *inherited* them. So he set in order this policy of National Resilience in an effort to improve the country's economic, social and military position. But look what he is faced with! Not only are his people — like all other people — swayed by the pulls of human nature, living by the selfish GET way, but he is confronted within and without by the enemy of atheistic COMMUNISM, seeking to overthrow him and to gobble up the wealth of Indonesia's natural resources — as it seeks to grab and gain *all* the *resources* of *all* nations for itself!

As I sat talking with the President, and listening to him, I thought of him as one of the major main branches off the trunk of a large tree. Population-wise, Red China is the largest major branch on that tree. India is the second largest, Russia the third, the United States the fourth, Indonesia the fifth. Then comes Japan and the other major nations.

And to what do these heads of state look? They have their own country and its internal problems and evils to contend with — that is, the other branches off *their* branch, the larger branches off those branches, the smaller ones off them — and finally, the millions of twigs off the smallest branches of *their* national branch.

Then also, they have to deal with international and world affairs. So they look to that giant Red China branch — and all the other branches off that one immense tree. But what do the heads of state see — with what do they deal? Why, all those other main branches off the tree, of course!

But *not one* of them seems to even *see* the *trunk* of that tree and its roots. Yet, on any tree, the one and *only* source of sustaining each branch, with its labyrinth of smaller branches and twigs, is the *trunk* of the tree, and the ROOT structure in the ground. The Creator God is the Root Structure, and the living CHRIST is the TRUNK of the tree. But the heads of governments in this world are not looking to the trunk of the tree, let alone the Root Structure. They do not SEE the living God in the picture — to them it is as if He is *non-existent*.

By the way — have *you* ever PROVED the existence of GOD? I invite you to write to Ambassador College, requesting the booklet *Does God Exist?* and *Seven Proofs God Exists*.

God is the Creator. God is the one Source of supply for every possible need. God pointed *the way* to our first parents that will CAUSE every GOOD — peace, happiness, abundance — everything man *desires* and *needs* that is *good*. Yet they rejected God's instruction. But God has had it set to PRINT — in His Instruction Manual for mankind — the Bible.

Why not request your free copy of the booklet *The Proof of the Bible*.

I know there are evangelists who will tell you that "CHRIST is the answer to our problems." Yes, but HOW? Just saying, sentimentally, that you accept or believe in Christ is not enough to produce the answer. You need to study His Instruction Manual, and begin to *live by* its every teaching. We *could* have a better world, but it won't come by thinking Christ will somehow do it all — by thinking there's nothing for us to do but just turn it over to Him and do nothing ourselves. Not in *this* world. The time is coming — and SOON — when the living Christ *will* step in, with all the supreme power and glory of the universe, and ENFORCE peace and happiness and prosperity on the earth — but that's in the World Tomorrow! We *could* bring it about TODAY — but humanity WON'T! □

What Our Readers Say

No Sales Pitch

I have just recently received my first copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and am still amazed I have not received a bill or sales pitch for something else. I have enjoyed my first issue very much and am looking forward to receiving more.

Janice A.,
Charlotte, North Carolina

Personal to M. L.

• *You asked whether God will forgive you — even though you have committed sins (broken God's Law) and find yourself facing the resultant penalty for sin — death (Rom. 6:23). This question has bothered many, but the Bible itself gives the answer. Yes, you can be forgiven.*

Clearly, the same God who established the penalty for sin shows us how we can be pardoned — forgiven, and WHO already paid our penalty for us.

Write for our free literature: The Unpardonable Sin, "What Is Real Repentance?" and What Do You Mean... Salvation? These publications will make the Bible's answer to your question plain.

General Comments

I have received only five lessons [of your Correspondence Course] and am very pleased with it. I never thought the Bible could ever be presented in such a way that it would be EASY to understand.

Ruth M.,
Cornwall, Ontario

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