

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
PRESIDENT and PASTOR

OFFICE OF
GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Vice President

August 26, 1969

TO ALL MINISTERS IN U.S. AND ABROAD:

GREETINGS, in Christ's Service!

I know you're all aware by now of the recent furor in the news over the fire in the Al Aksa Mosque just to the south of the Dome of the Rock, and just above the area of the Jerusalem "Dig."

The nutty kook who threw the fire bomb is some sort of deranged Australian who over a year ago contacted Bill Winner; wanted to come to Ambassador College -- and was rejected. He later contacted one of our staff in Sydney with the same results. He was recognized as being an oddball, and was told not to bother applying for college.

However, he had been receiving The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, and taking the Correspondence Course for some time. A picture in a leading British newspaper shows him in his jail cell holding a magazine with the plain words "Story of Man" -- a PLAIN TRUTH. But no one would know this, of course, and there was at least no immediate connection with us as a direct result of that picture.

In a flurry of events, an Australian article all but stated we are "Arab Haters" and were directly responsible for inspiring the idiot to throw the bomb. Other western press was all mixed up. A San Francisco paper reported the man to be a member of a "Church of God" based in Cyprus -- with 1.2 million members. The Los Angeles Times called me yesterday, and asked about the man. There is no possible way to avoid Ambassador College being mentioned in the news, since the man has over 20 lessons of the CC, and had copies of his literature, all published by AC, right in his jail cell with him! I told the reporter the substance of what I have stated here -- and a xeroxed copy of the article is enclosed for your personal information.

The main thing is we ARE NOT "against" Arabs, nor ANY peoples -- and no articles ever published in any of our literature could remotely be construed to imply we advocate fire-bombing and violence! NO work so strongly emphasizes law-abiding; rules-keeping; respect and love for authorities and dignitaries; love of all peoples -- an absence of racism and hate! No work has so strongly gone to bat to support Police Department anti-crime campaigns, to decry immorality, drug usage, crime, divorce, and all forms of violence! AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE A LITERAL TEMPLE MUST BE BUILT IN JERUSALEM!

Let me explain that last! For years we had misunderstood the statements in II Thes. the 2nd chapter with Matt. 24:15. Even though Rev. 11:1-2 talks of measuring the

"temple of God" it is in vision, and shows the COURT WITHOUT being "trodden under foot" for three and a half years.

We have come to see within the past few months that that temple does not have to be a COMPLETED building -- it could be a "temple project" and have been dedicated as a "temple" without having been really FINISHED. It could, too, be a "TABERNACLE," or a tent. The Greek word in II Thes. 2 implies the "holy place" and "holy of holies" and does not need to specifically include even the entire BUILDING of the temple, let alone the court and adjacent properties.

As you all know, we have been strongly reminding members we DO NOT SET DATES -- and reminding them we COULD have more years than we originally thought for the completion of this Work. But we have just as strongly been reminding them we DO NOT KNOW how much longer God wants His Work to continue -- that the days will be CUT SHORT, that we MUST NOT begin to say "My Lord delays His coming," and that things COULD work out as we have felt they may.

Because we formerly laid such stress on the actual BUILDING in Jerusalem -- that a complete TEMPLE of sorts should exist, I wanted to mention to all of you this newer understanding of these scriptures. After all, the Pope COULD make such proclamation of "being god" IN HIS OWN BASILICA and simply CALL it the "temple of god" though this seems only a possibility and not a definite requirement of II Thes. 2.

Matthew's account only talks of the "holy place" where it "ought not" and does not specifically state a whole, completed, finished building. Dr. Hoeh has wondered whether or not a portion of the actual foundations of the ancient temple might be identified, or even some NEW temporary structure be thrown up hurriedly, and that SACRIFICES might begin. The beginning of those SACRIFICES in a "HOLY PLACE" would fulfill the strictest requirements of the prophecies and not demand a completed building of real size and quality. The Bible says this edifice will be destroyed, anyway.

Of course, we have always just "observed" that this is a PROPHECY OF THE BIBLE, and that somehow, ~~whether by the Israeli Government, or whether under auspices of~~ different religions (Jewish, probably), or WHAT -- that some sort of "temple" structure (or tent!) would be built! I, personally, have felt that the Israelis would NOT DARE destroy the mosques, and have stated in sermons I felt this could fulfill the "measure not the court" statements in Revelation 11. Also, any attempted Israeli destruction of the mosques would be the single most unifying thing they could do so far as the Arab nations are concerned!

Well, so much for that part of this "memo" (I didn't intend taking this much time).

But, IF you should receive any local newspaper inquiries of any sort -- be sure to direct them to HEADQUARTERS, and don't "volunteer" all sorts of information and beliefs and doctrine. Remember there is a rotten DEVIL who rages like a ROARING LION against us in this Work, and who must now be HATING the involvement of God's own Work in Jerusalem -- knowing it signals an ever closer approach to his own eternal punishment! Somehow, the Devil has been stirring up troubles for God's Work in

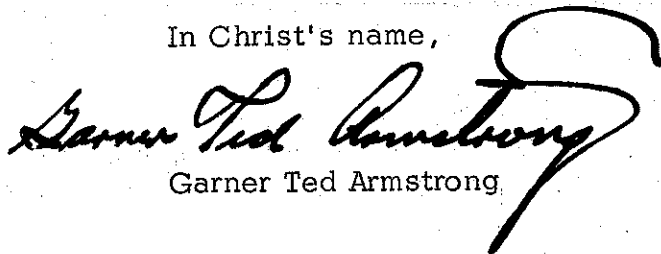
completely unexpected ways! We MUST NOT BE "IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES!" And we certainly need to PRAY for protection for God's Work, and all His servants and His people -- and RESIST the Devil through the power of God's Holy Spirit! COULD the Devil ALREADY have "come down, having GREAT WRATH because he knows he has but a SHORT TIME?" Such trials begin to make you wonder!

Now to another point before closing! Last year, I was completely MISquoted in a sermon I gave at Mt. Pocono by a NEWSPAPER REPORTER. He made out I was some kind of terrible racist -- which I MOST ASSUREDLY AM NOT. But the point is -- THERE ARE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS ATTENDING OUR SERVICES AT THE FEAST SITES! Sometimes they "sneak" in, and sometimes they announce who they are, and are admitted. We really CANNOT just "hustle them off the grounds" in strong-arm fashion by burly deacons -- or we merely cause more trouble. If they are somehow inspired to come around, we must be friendly, cordial, pleasant -- and remember WE HAVE NOTHING WHATEVER TO HIDE FROM THIS WORLD...BUT EVERYTHING TO GIVE TO THE WORLD! But -- we do not invite the general public to private Church Festival sessions in our own Church "convention!" But IF A REPORTER IS there -- I wanted to remind ALL who will be giving sermonettes (the lists are being prepared now) and sermons to PUT THAT REMINDER RIGHT AT THE TOP OF YOUR NOTES. Remind yourselves a REPORTER may be listening. Don't get carried away and say something which could be construed as being racist, or anti-Arab, or violently anti-Catholic or anti-Jew. It's better to remember we are looking forward, into the world tomorrow, and the reign of Christ -- and stay away from the more "political problem" type of sermon, anyway. Preach THE WORD -- preach POSITIVE TRUTH -- preach GOOD NEWS -- preach CORRECTION AND ADMONITION -- but ALWAYS KEEP IN YOUR MIND THE EYES AND EARS OF THE WORLD... EVEN INSPIRED BY SATAN... MAY BE LISTENING! I think we can avoid some persecution that way -- but I know we simply cannot avoid it all.

Well, this took me longer than I had intended, and it's now 11:30, and I've got the daily radio program in 1/2 hour, and TV in the early afternoon after a quick lunch in the film viewing room -- so must "get cracking" as all our British people would say.

Will be seeing all of you at the Feast, God willing!

In Christ's name,


Garner Ted Armstrong

The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it contains the President's message to the Congress at the beginning of his first term. The letter is written in a very formal and dignified style, and it is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States.

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Israeli Panel Launches Mosque Fire Inquiry

BY LOUIS B. FLEMING

Times Staff Writer

JERUSALEM—A special Israel government commission began its investigation Monday of the fire which damaged the Al Aksa Mosque last Thursday and brought Arab demands for a holy war against Israel.

At the same time, the government launched its own religious counterattack, calling for world action to protect Jews in the Arab states after the execution in Bagdad of 15 persons, two of them Jews.

The Knesset, the Israeli parliament, has been called into extraordinary session on Thursday to consider the plight of the Jews in Iraq.

Mosque Viewed

The government commission visited the fire-damaged mosque after its first organizational session Monday. A rival commission set up by Moslem leaders of East Jerusalem and the occupied Arab lands will begin its independent investigation of the fire today.

The Arab section of Jerusalem remained under tight military control Monday. Israeli citizens were still barred from most of the old walled city which had been under Arab control until the 1967 war. There were no acts of violence reported here, however.

The Knesset had been in recess because of national elections scheduled for Oct. 29. The decision to reconvene it in extraordinary session dramatized the deep concern here about the fate of Jews in the Arab states.

It also afforded Israel a platform from which to counterattack the atrocity charges which these Arab states have been making to a special U.N. commission which has been investigating conditions in the areas occupied by Israeli troops since the 1967 war.

"The government of Israel now asks all heads of state, religious leaders and heads of international organizations to do all within their power to stop this wave of terror, hatred and incitement in Bagdad and to act immediately in order to save Jews in Iraq, Syria and Egypt, to make it possible for them to leave these countries, where they are being held as persecuted hostages and where the most elementary human rights are utterly denied to them," the government statement read.

First witnesses will be called before the special commission investigating the fire at the Al Aksa Mosque next Monday, Supreme Court Justice Yoel Sussman, chairman of the commission, announced.

Suspect's Role

If evidence should name Michael Dennis William Rohen, 27, the Australian farmer's apprentice being held by police on suspicion of starting the fire, then Rohen would be free to come before the commission and cross-examine witnesses, Justice Sussman said.

This posed the prospect of parallel judicial actions, but there is no way to avoid duplication under Israeli law, the justice told

reporters.

Formal indictment of Rohen is expected at the end of the week. It is not known whether he is standing by the confession which he is understood to have made after his arrest last Friday. The date for his trial will be set at the time of the indictment, but is not likely before mid-September.

Southland Link With Accused Man Noted

The Australian held by Israeli police on suspicion of setting fire to a Jerusalem mosque once tried to enroll in Ambassador College but was rejected, the college's executive vice president said Monday.

Herbert W. Armstrong, who also is founder of the college, whose headquarters is in Pasadena, said he learned that Michael Dennis William Rohen asked the school's representative in Sydney, Australia, if he could enroll in the Ambassador College branch at St. Alban's, near London, England.

"He was rejected because of his demeanor and mannerism," Armstrong said. "Our man down there felt he was some kind of kook."

Armstrong said a check on whether Rohen ever had any connection with Ambassador College or its publications was made after it was reported that the Australian had in his possession some copies of The Plain Truth, a monthly magazine published by the Ambassador College Press.

The magazine, which Armstrong said has both theological and news articles, is published simultaneously in Pasadena, England and Sydney in four languages with a reported circulation of 1.2 million copies.

Rohen is not on the mailing list from Pasadena, but Armstrong said he may have subscribed from

the British office.

Reports circulating in Jerusalem suggest that Rohen may have been inspired by the tenet, held by some fundamentalist Christian sects, that the coming of the Messiah will be after the reconstruction of the Temple of Solomon, of which the Wailing Wall is the only remnant. The mosque that was partially destroyed is on the ancient temple site.

Armstrong said that articles in The Plain Truth did not suggest this interpretation of the Bible. "We don't hold the view that the temple must be built to fulfill prophecy," he said.

Ambassador College recently had 50 students in Jerusalem for the first summer of an arrangement with the Israel Exploration Society to excavate the area known as the City of David, the original Jerusalem.

Founded in 1947

Ambassador College was founded in 1947 through the Radio Church of God, later called the Worldwide Church of God, now separated from the college. Other campuses are in England and Big Sandy, Tex.

The Pasadena campus is a mixture of old estates and modern new buildings east of Orange Grove Blvd. A liberal arts school, it also has religion courses and a graduate school of theology.

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME

The first settlement of the city of Boston was made in the year 1630, by a company of Puritan settlers, who came from England, and were led by John Winthrop. They founded the city on the site of the present city, and named it Boston, in honor of Boston, Lincolnshire, in England.

The city of Boston was the first of the New England colonies, and was the first to be founded by English settlers. It was the first to be founded by a company of Puritan settlers, who came from England, and were led by John Winthrop.

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