

# INSIGHTS

## The Electronic Age



We, at the Congregation of God Seventh Day, are always looking for ways to be more efficient and cost-effective as we attempt to preach the gospel to our beloved nation. With the advent of the internet, and with most families now owning a computer with internet capability, we made the decision to discontinue printing The Herald Magazine as before. The printing and distribution of The Herald Magazine was a costly project with each new year seeing those costs increase. We also noted that more magazines and newspapers are beginning to use the Internet to distribute their information.

We are continuing to be a forward-looking congregation to determine how we can best serve our readers and people who are interested in our information.

Initially, we will continue to put up a new Herald Internet Magazine every other month just as we did with the published, hard-copy version. In time, we hope to upload a new one every month with articles Biblically based as well as looking at current events in the light of Biblical Prophecy.

We hope you like this new version of The Herald Internet Magazine and we would appreciate any comments or suggestions that you wish to make about this new endeavor.

We also hope that you will take advantage of all of the many pieces of literature which you may view and order from our web site – [www.watchamerica.com](http://www.watchamerica.com). You can now see our latest Watch America television

programs, as well as hear the latest Watch America radio programs on our web page, as well. You may have noticed, and we know many of you have listened to them already, that the weekly sermons are also available on our web page. Very soon, you will also be able to view the sermons online.

We are extremely delighted about the distribution of my newest book, *Our Lost National Identity*, in book stores for purchase. This book represents fifteen years of research and it is a well-documented history of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel and the prophecies which show that we are on the verge of losing our national identity. You may notice on this web page a link to our publisher from whom you may purchase the book now, or it will be available at Amazon.com and bookstores on February 5, 2008.

All of these endeavors show that we are not standing still nor “resting upon our laurels,” but we are continuing to seek out ways to serve Jesus Christ and the mission He has assigned us to preach the gospel during this final age of man’s rule.

John A. Pinkston

President/Pastor  
The Congregation of God Seventh Day

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# Drought -

## Just another weather cycle?

By John A. Pinkston

The year 2007 has turned out to be the second driest year recorded for the state of Georgia. Had it not been for the last three days of 2007, North Georgia would have experienced the driest year ever recorded. Climatologists claim that rainfall is down more than 40% in Georgia, Alabama, Southeast Tennessee and North Carolina.

The drought has expanded to 35 states across the nation and climatologists are predicting that we may be in for a multiple year drought cycle, especially in the Southeast. Recently, government leaders and climatologists proclaimed that we may never see the rainfall and moisture again in the Southeast as in the past. As a result of the drought, the states of Alabama and Florida are locked in a dispute concerning the water that originates in Georgia and flows down to the Gulf of Mexico through Alabama and Florida. Understandably, the governors are attempting to do what is best for their own people and, as human nature would have it, place the blame on their neighbors for the current water crisis.



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The question has arisen about the cause of this drought and many environmentalists blame it on global warming. Others who reject this concept claim that it is nothing more than a normal cycle that weather patterns go through. While there may be some truth to both of these arguments, they overlook the real cause of bad weather conditions, whether they be extreme drought or excessive rains causing floods. Several years ago, when the Southeast was pounded by many hurricanes, the same argument was made. There are those who have political agendas that have seen the weather patterns as a winning issue to propel them into positions of power and authority.

In a recent front-page article in the Washington Times, dated December 24, 2007, "Hundreds of Scientists Challenge Gore on Issue of Climate Change." S. A. Miller, the author, says that more than 400 hundred scientists challenge claims of former Vice President Al Gore and the United Nations about the threat of manmade global warming. The scientists, many of whom are current or former members of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Mr. Gore for publicizing climate crisis, cast grave doubt upon the scientific consensus that man-made global warming imperils the planet. In a joint communiqué, many find the Doomsday picture Al Gore is painting as unrealistic and without any scientific merit. Al Gore claims that a 6-meter sea-level rise will soon happen, which is actually 15 times greater than the UN panel of scientists calculated. According to one of the chief Dutch atmospheric scientists, Heinrik Tennekes, who is a prominent member of the group of scientists disagreeing with Al Gore, submitted a report to Congress, stating the following, "I protest vigorously the idea that climate reacts like a home heating system to a change setting of the thermostat: just turn the dial and the desired temperature will be reached." According to Mr. Tennekes, "Claims of a consensus about manmade global warming grows less and less credible every day.

The actual amount of global warming over the last 100 years is approximately one degree Celsius. Interestingly enough, Nasa reports that Mars has also heated up by about one degree Celsius at the same time. Mr. Gore and the environmentalists, of course, ignore this scientific fact. As usual, one who hears differing sides of the issue comes away more confused than ever as the real cause of drought and climate fluxuations. In this article, we will expose the real reason behind the inclement weather and what, if anything, can be done by man to change it.

### **Thirsty World**

The world has become more thirsty as population has increased and the need for more food production has also increased. At the same time, the industrial revolution has been responsible for removing more acreage from agriculture and replacing it with the building of cities with sidewalks, streets

and subdivisions which aggravate the problem and increase the demand for water. As the world has entered into the Industrial Age, the growth of industry has exponentially increased the demand for water.

Paper manufacturing is an excellent example of an industry which consumes gallons of water on a massive scale. The average city of about 130,000 will consume about 30 million gallons of water per day. A single paper mill complex, producing about a thousand tons of paper per day, will also consume about 30 million gallons of water daily to produce that paper. The paper industry either gets its water from rivers and streams or it must sink many deep wells to provide its ravenous appetite for water. The deep wells are pulling from the same aquifer as do the cities in and around the paper mill.

There are many other industries that are huge consumers of water on a far greater scale than that necessary for human consumption.

As water shortages become more acute, many more farming operations are relying upon irrigation from either surface streams or deep wells. All of this water ultimately comes from rainfall, which, if not evaporated away, returns to the salty waters of the oceans whence they originally came.

Virtually all rainfall emanates from the oceans as a result of increased temperatures and the cooling process as the moisture rises to form clouds in the condensation process. Actually, if the global warming people were correct, and the temperature of the oceans were rising, we would experience even more rainfall, not less. The scientific fact is that, as warm, moist air rises, which it will do, it will ultimately be cooled in the upper atmosphere to form rain or precipitation-producing clouds. On the other hand, if the climate is cooling over the ocean, it could adversely affect the development of precipitation-producing clouds.

### **Too Little, Too Late**

It has been said that a farmer is the biggest gambler of all. When he borrows money to put in a crop, he is betting on weather conditions which must be almost perfect to harvest a crop and have an adequate income. The farmer depends upon the climate to produce the proper temperatures for seed germination and rain in the proper season to give the plants growth. He also is depending upon the seasons to produce the dry weather at the proper time for crop harvest. If any of these conditions get out of whack, the farmer will have a reduced crop production or total crop failure.

Back in the 1930s, the weather conditions worked against many of the farmers in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and the breadbasket of the United States to create a Dust Bowl which drove many people to California, seeking a new way of life. Most people have thought that, through modern farming techniques and proper irrigation, this could never happen again. The fact is irrigation and modern farming techniques play only a small part in the necessary conditions to produce the crops necessary to feed a hungry nation.

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## **Global Climate Change**

Most scientists and meteorologists attribute weather changes to natural cyclical events which they think will always come back around and mollify the weather in such a way that we will receive the necessary amounts of water for food production to meet the ever-growing population of the world. However, this is a very short-sighted view of the weather prospects that we will be facing in American, Britain and much of western Europe over the next few years. Virtually none of the scientists or religionists ever stop and consider that God Himself may be taking a hand in our upset weather conditions.

## **God is in Charge**

Scientists, weather men, governmental officials and religionists alike are totally unaware that God Himself has any part in our weather patterns. True enough, when a drought comes around, religious and some political figures call for the people to pray for rain. Once they have done this, they go about their merry way, hoping something might change. The real problem with this approach is that none consider that they themselves may be the responsible parties to bringing these adverse weather conditions upon the nation.

An example of how God will bring about adverse weather conditions to get the attention of the political leaders can be found in I Kings 17:1, "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

God advised Elijah that He was going to send a drought upon the land which would cause a famine in an effort to get the attention of the king of Israel.

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him. (I King 16:30-33)

King Ahab had become tolerant of the idolatrous religions, especially those brought into the land by his wife, Jezebel. Ahab considered it a light thing (of little significance) that he allowed the nation to turn away from the true God of Israel and embrace the idolatrous practices of their surrounding neighbors.

God, in a final effort to turn Ahab and his kingdom away from their evil, idolatrous practices, used a drought to get their attention.

And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. (I Kings 18:2)

As Elijah approached Ahab, according to God's instruction, notice how Ahab accepted no responsibility for the drought that had come upon the land. (Verse 17) "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"

Elijah, on the other hand, pointed out the sins of Ahab, which had caused God to withhold the rain. (Verse 18) "And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim."

The nation had become so perverted in its idolatrous worship that the True God of Israel was painted with the same broad brush as all of the imaginary gods of the heathen and Gentiles surrounding the Israelites.

In one final effort to show Ahab and the Israelites who He was, God instructed Elijah to set up a test before all of the people so that they could see for themselves who the True God really was and to expose the false gods of Jezebel, especially Baal. This interesting story can be read in I Kings 18:19-39.

## **God Fulfills His Word**

As the nation of Israel departed Egypt, when God gave to Moses His Laws, Statutes and Commandments, He also established a Covenant with those ancient Israelites which is spelled out in two places in the Old Testament. The Covenant had to do with national greatness and physical blessings, *if the Israelites lived up to their end of the bargain.*

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

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And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you. And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright. (Leviticus 26:1-13)

The covenant, like any agreement between two parties, will specify a penalty if one or the other party fails to live up to the conditions of the agreement.

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. (Deuteronomy 28:15-17)

Notice that God said the land and its food production would be cursed if the covenant was broken by the people. He stated that one of the blessings would be to receive rain in the proper amounts in due season. If the covenant was broken, however, the opposite would be true and that is that the rain either would not come or it will not come at the right time to produce the crops. When crops fail and the health of the people is compromised, this opens the door to sickness and plague.

The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. (Deuteronomy 28:21-22)

God states that all of this begins with a changing of the weather patterns to reduce food production and the livelihood of those in the area.

And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and

dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed. (Deuteronomy 28:23-24)

These two verses are an absolute promise from God that He will execute judgment against those who continue to rebel against His way of life.

### **None Calls for True Repentance**

The religious, political and scientific communities are totally unaware that it will be necessary for our political leaders, religious leaders and the people to repent of their sins before God will intervene to make changes. The prayers of those who are crying for rain are essentially falling upon deaf ears because God is first looking for a repentant attitude before He will respond to prayers by the people to bring rain and end the drought. In fact, the Bible states that our sins have cut us off from God and He will not hear our pleas for rain or deliverance from any other adversity. God further warns our people that we are facing terrible catastrophes which include a weakening of our nation through war and other outside influences.

And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. (Leviticus 26:15-16)

Verse 16 is talking about terrorism. He also mentions consumption, which covers diseases like tuberculosis and other respiratory ailments infecting the population on a large scale. Recently, it was revealed that a new strain of TB, which is drug-resistant and virtually a condition untreatable, has been brought into the country by a woman from India. More and more people suffer from various forms of bronchial attacks and adverse sinus conditions. This plague is going to increase dramatically over the next few years. The verse also mentions the burning ague, which is a form of chemical and biological warfare that could be unleashed upon the nation by terrorist organizations.

### **Breaking the Pride of Our Power**

In this same punishment our nation will experience, there will be a breaking of our power. (Leviticus 26:19), "And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:"

The pride of our power can be summed up in three distinct areas. (1) economic (2) military and (3) political.

#### (1) Economic

The condition in which we find ourselves, where our former enemies are able to exercise economic control over the

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nation because they possess so many American dollars, and those countries in the Middle East who are able to affect our economy through oil prices, continues to be a worry for the central banks. At any moment in the future, if China, Japan or the Middle East decided to declare economic war on the United States, our nation would be plunged into the worse economic crisis it has ever experienced since we became a nation. Our economic future is no longer totally in the hands of Americans, but many of our former enemies and those who would love to see the decline and fall of America.

## (2) Military

Another area of the pride of our power is in our military strength. However, as we continue to hemorrhage our military strength through the war on terror, while at the same time reducing our forces and squabbling among the political parties about the war in Iraq, the U.S. military is rapidly being depleted. The leftists in America see the U.S. military as a threat to our way of life and would actually stop funding all military appropriations in favor of increased funding for such broken programs as the Health, Education and Welfare Dept. The Education budget at the federal level now is greater than money being spent by the Pentagon. Truly, the political leaders of our country have their priorities totally “upside down.” When the president is sworn in, he is sworn to *protect and defend the Constitution against all foreign and domestic enemies*. And yet, there are those in political power that feel by using your taxpayer money, they can purchase as many votes necessary to keep them in power and ultimately bring about a dictatorship that will destroy the nation.

## (3) Political Collapse

The time is rapidly approaching when most Americans are going to view the political process as a farce. More and more people are, even now, bailing out of the political process

when it comes to voting. The concept seems to be developing that “it doesn’t make any difference who is in power, things will continue to get worse!” This, of course, leads to the demise of our political system in favor of a new Regional System which will ultimately lead to the federalization of all countries into a Ten Regional World Power, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet and the Apostle John in Revelation 13.

Will America come to its senses before it is too late? The answer is a resounding “NO.” The “die is cast” and the stiff-necked attitude of our people has gone far beyond the point of no return regarding repentance. The religious leaders have no concept of the real meaning of repentance nor do they believe obedience to God has anything to do with the weather conditions we are experiencing. God speaks to these religious leaders in the Book of Malachi.

The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 2:6-8)

Our people do not know the True God who has blessed us far beyond all of the other nations of the world. And, as the scripture says above, our religious leaders have caused people to stumble at God’s Law.

While this scenario that I have just described could be very disheartening, and certainly it is, there is a way for you and your family to escape. As it says in Acts 2:38, the first step towards protecting you and your family is the word REPENT. □



Allatoona Lake in July 2007



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEWS

### Revival of Russian Militarism

According to a recent article by David R. Sands in the Washington Times, President Putin seems to be re-igniting an arms race with the United States. He states that:

Reviving yet another iconic image from Soviet days, Russia's military announced plans to stage a parade of ballistic missiles, tanks and platoons of soldiers this May through the Kremlin's Red Square.

The display of military hardware, the first of its kind since 1990, will be held May 9, the day Russians mark the victory over Germany in World War II, and could coincide with the inauguration of Dmitry Medvedev, close aide to outgoing President Vladimir Putin, as Russia's new leader.

Similar displays, typically held May 1, were a high point of the old Soviet calendar, with leaders such as Josef Stalin and other top Communist Party figures perched on the reviewing stand above Lenin's Tomb to witness the country's military prowess and send a message to the Soviet Union's Cold War adversaries.

The announcement comes at a time of rising tension between Russia and the West, on issues ranging from a planned U.S. missile defense system in Eastern Europe, to human rights to the future of Serbia's Kosovo province. Mr. Putin also has struggled to rebuild Russia's military forces, which deteriorated badly in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse. "You can't teach an old, imperial, bear new tricks," said Ariel Cohen, a Russian specialist at the Heritage Foundation. "The current regime's cramming for international prestige is as high as the insecurity of its rulers."

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, on Jan. 17, accused Moscow of following the old, hostile Soviet pattern in an escalating dispute over Russia's order that two British cultural outreach offices in Moscow and St. Petersburg be shut down. Russia claims the centers are operating illegally, but Mr. Miliband said Russian authorities were trying to intimidate the British employees.

"We saw similar actions during the Cold War, but frankly thought they had been put behind us," Mr. Miliband told the House of Commons.

According to Russia's Interfax news agency, the May 9 parade lineup will include the newest version of the Topol-M SS-27 intercontinental ballistic missile, armored personnel carriers, tanks, and 6,000 troops decked out in a newly designed uniform.

Mr. Putin has made restoring Russia's national pride and reclaiming some of its lost international influence central to his presidency.

### **Editor's Comments:**

As if the United States didn't have its hands full considering the Iraq/Afghanistan war, and now the resurgence of the Russian military certainly must have policy-makers in Washington DC feeling as though the world is tumbling down around their shoulders.

In the past several days, one of Russia's top generals made the statement that Russia reserves the right to executive a pre-emptive nuclear strike upon any nation they suspect is about to launch an attack on them or their allies. This is significant since Iran now has allied itself with Russia.

Russia continues to supply Iran with up-to-date military equipment and processed nuclear fuel under the guise of helping them build and generate nuclear, electric power.

Iran continues to develop its nuclear capability under the guise of peaceful nuclear uses, while, at the same time, their president continues to call for the complete destruction of all Jews in the Middle East and ultimately the destruction of Britain and America.

If this Russian general is stating the official policy concerning the Russian response, any attack by the U.S. or its allies, including Israel, against Iran, under this policy the Russians could retaliate against us or Israel with a nuclear weapon. At the present time, only Russia has the capability to deliver such a nuclear weapon to any location of its choosing in the world.

God has promised to break the pride of our power in Leviticus 26, because we have rejected Him and His Laws.

The next U.S. president will be facing unprecedented national and international problems which include severe

economic problems, a reduction in the U.S. military fighting capability and a continued loss of political clout on the world stage.

### **China's Weapons System Capability**

According to P. Parameswaran in the Washington AFP:

The United States said Monday it was troubling that China's weapons system capability exceeded the level Beijing defined as necessary for self-defense.

The head of the US armed forces in the Asia-Pacific, Adm. Timothy Keating said he was told by Chinese leaders during a visit to Beijing that its so-called "area denial weapons" were to "protect those things that are ours." Keating said the US had "intelligence that reinforces my opinion that China is developing, fielding and has in place weapons that could be characterized as having ... an ability to restrict movement in and around certain areas on the sea, in the air or under the sea. "I'll go back to the point we made a couple of times already, that we understood PRC (China's) intentions, not just their transparency, not just the fact that these weapons exist. We know they exist. It's why are they being fielded?" Keating asked, speaking at a Washington forum of the US-based Asia Society.

The Pentagon fears China's area-denial arms, including missiles, can be used to attack US aircraft carriers and ships, reports have said. "The PLA (China's People's Liberation Army) appears engaged in a sustained effort to develop the capability to interdict, at long ranges, aircraft carrier and expeditionary strike groups that might deploy to the western Pacific," according to the annual Pentagon report last year to the US Congress.

"Increasingly, China's area denial/anti-access forces overlap, providing multiple layers of offensive systems, utilizing the sea, air and space," the report said.

The United States fears a Chinese military buildup could blunt any US intervention in a conflict over Taiwan and challenge US naval access to the Asian region. A year ago, China used a ballistic missile to destroy a Chinese weather satellite in low Earth orbit, causing worried in Washington that Beijing could disrupt US military satellites in a regional conflict.

In addition, a Chinese submarine approached a US aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean and surfaced within firing range of its torpedoes and missiles before being detected.

To a question by a Chinese diplomat at the forum, Keating said he did not think the two countries should set special criteria for military transparency,

but sought what he called an "inter-agency approach" to facing challenges.

Keating, who just returned from his second visit to China, said that they should also increase dialogue, have better communication and develop "bonds of trust and understanding" to avoid potential conflict. "I think we will proceed on a path that will reduce tensions and reduce the likelihood of misunderstanding leading to crisis, leading to conflict," he said. Keating also expressed relief that the November row with Beijing over the port visits of US ships appeared to have been resolved.

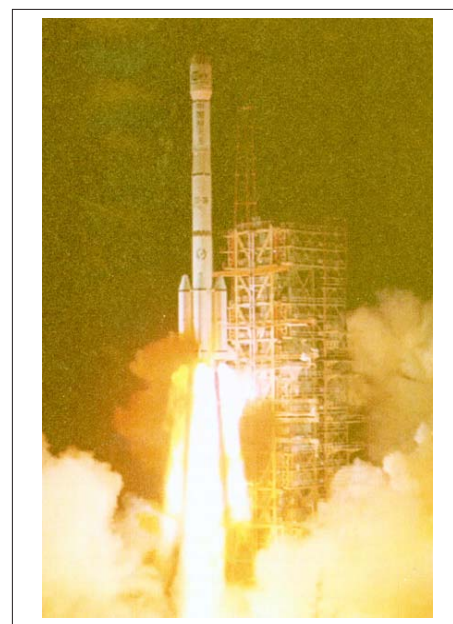
An American warship USS Blue Ridge was allowed to dock in Hong Kong Monday, in the first visit by a US military vessel since the USS Kitty Hawk was denied entry in the Chinese-administered territory about two months ago.

### **Editor's Comment:**

The presidential election seems to ignore all of these world trouble spots and, at least one side believes all of these issues can be settle by diplomatic means. However, this appeasing attitude is exactly what led to World War II when the British and the western allies thought they could negotiate with Adolf Hitler and head off World War II.

It seems our political leaders can never learn the lessons of the past and they try to espouse a message that they believe will get them the most votes, rather than concentrating on the serious issues that our nation faces over the next decade.

The US economy is faltering and unfortunately the Chinese communists hold the bulk of US debt. If, at any time in the future, they decided to declare an economic war on the US and demand payment in gold or other tangibles for the US debt, the American economy would instantly collapse, opening the way to the establishment of a New World Government.



Chinese ICBM