

1. TRAGEDY STRIKES ZAIRE—AGAIN: In a fax I just received, Elder Jacob Nortey (Africa-Indian Ocean Division president) reported another tribal massacre in the North-Kivu area of Zaire in which “143 churches were destroyed in the Masisi region and 458 Christians were killed.” The situation has created a large refugee community in the city of Goma, including 15,800 members and 26 leaders who fled their villages and are among the refugees. This is in addition to the massacre reported in the May 19 edition of *From the G C President* in which 450 Seventh-day Adventists lost their lives and 45 chapels were destroyed.

2. POSSIBLE INTERRUPTIONS could occur in the weekly edition of *From the G.C. President* during the next four weeks. I leave for India and Annual Council tomorrow (Sept. 21) and, though I will do my best, I beg your understanding should the extreme pressure of these meetings result in missing one or more editions.

3. MIDDLE EAST COLLEGE RADIO station began test broadcasting September 7. This is the first time in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that we have broadcast in Arabic from the Middle East. Securing a generator to insure continuous electrical power, made necessary due to erratic power supply in post-war Beirut, caused a delay. Programming for the station is developed at the Media Center in Cyprus. The station will begin broadcasting eight hours a day. Future plans include a production facility at Middle East College, which will offer a course in radio communications.

4. VICTORY IN CHINA: A government official came to a Seventh-day Adventist Church in northeastern China to offer a Three-Self Patriotic Movement pastor to officiate at a baptism they heard was scheduled for August 2. However, the new converts felt that they would rather have our two ordained local elders perform the rite than a non-Adventist minister. For months a large number of candidates had been thoroughly prepared. Each had completed their Bible study lessons and had passed a written

examination on fundamental beliefs.

On the day of the baptism everything was highly organized. Every candidate was issued an entrance card to wear in order to enter the church. At 6 am the candidates lined up for baptism and around 8 am government officials arrived for a look at the proceedings. Finding a quiet, well-organized crowd, they did not interfere. The baptisms continued over a five-day period during which 4,415 were baptized! These are in addition to the 2,400 that were baptized there in July '92.

5. THE BRAZILIAN VOICE OF PROPHECY celebrated its 50th anniversary with a crusade in the city of Salvador, Bahía. Though torrential rains drenched the city for ten days before the crusade began, when Elder HMS Richards Jr. and his team arrived, the skies cleared and busses resumed their schedules. Eleven students from North American colleges, accompanied by 35 of their peers from Brazil, worked all summer with interests who were attending 100 neighborhood crusades and helped prepare for the grand finale September 4 in the Fonte Nova stadium. On that afternoon 25,000 attended the celebration and rejoiced in the 2,000 souls who had been baptized.

6. ADRA AND THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT signed an agreement which includes a long-term lease for 1.2 acres (.5 hectares) of land. The contract follows more than two years of negotiations involving the country's president, prime minister, parliament, and Tirana City Council. Only two organizations have benefitted from the recently-revised legislation—the Roman Catholic Church and ADRA. ADRA plans to complete the construction of a 7,800 square foot warehouse by the end of 1993 in order to continue alleviating Albania's chronic food problem. The building will also serve as a temporary meeting place for the Tirana church family which consists of over 100 adults and about 150 children.

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