

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### The First Quarter-Century

With this issue *WORLDVIEW* enters its "Silver Anniversary" year. Conceived a quarter-century ago as a small-circulation magazine in newsletter format, *WORLDVIEW* today is the principal forum for discussions that raise the ethical issues in U.S. foreign policy, an award-winning medium for reviews of the day's most important books, and a point of reference for journalists, political commentators, and the U.S. Congress as well. Circulation stands at a record 20,000 — nearly double that of a few years ago — and its potential for growth has never appeared greater.

Why circulation continues to grow at a time when most publications are experiencing shrinkage, when money is "tight," and when there is no shortage of magazines brings us to the issue of *need*. Few would deny that we in the United States face a number of crises: of spirit, of the economy, of national identity. What is more, we finally have come to recognize that what were once viewed as domestic issues are inescapably *global* in their repercussions and that isolationism in any form — whatever the hope of some — is morally irresponsible and well-nigh impossible.

We learned long ago that war in one part of the world means tension in many others. Now we are learning that defoliation of tropical rain forests affects the weather in America's croplands; that Bolivia's ruling junta affects the illegal drug trade in the U.S.; that the oil of Mexico, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia affects the very substance of U.S. foreign policy; and that tradition, culture, and religion greatly affect a country's view of its international responsibilities. There is, in a sense, a new kind of "international terror" — the terror of internationalism.

It is natural to fear what we do not understand; it is enlightened to seek to understand what we fear. This enlightenment, I suspect, is what brings a growing number of readers to *WORLDVIEW*. They share an awareness that one must go beyond the headlines to understand the many grave issues of the day — issues of food and energy resources, of migration and refugees, of Third World development, and of superpower confrontation. Merely to know *what* is happening is not enough; one must know *how* decisions are arrived at, *why* they are implemented, and *whom* they will affect. For only when one understands the consequences of U.S. foreign policy decisions can one exercise the rights and duties of a citizen in an enlightened manner.

This, then, is the task of *WORLDVIEW*: to aid individual citizens and government leaders alike in developing an ethical framework for making decisions on foreign policy questions. It presents material that not only informs but examines, that offers a variety of worldviews, that focuses on issues rather than ideology, that sheds light on the darker

regions of controversy.

Not that *WORLDVIEW* lacks passion. The reader finds all the bodily humors in evidence in Wilson Carey McWilliams's "Under Cover" column that usually occupies this page, in the unique "Religion and . . ." column, in our regular coverage of the often frustrating events at the United Nations, and in the variety and scope of the monthly book reviews.

*WORLDVIEW*'S pledge, as we enter this Silver Anniversary year, is to continue to provide the most incisive analysis and reflective judgments of the issues that affect us as a people, as a nation, and as members of the world community. To our readers of long standing, our thanks for your encouragement and goodwill; to new readers, a hearty welcome. To all of you we wish a fine new year and continued enjoyment in *WORLDVIEW*'s company.

—J.T.

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