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Editorial (Volume 3, Number 1)

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EDITORIAL

At the outset of the third year of our publication we have made progress in several areas. With the addition last year of the two associate editors, Professors Steve Lammers and Richard Sharpless, the editorial work is improved. Having transferred our production to Lafayette College has brought about the utilization of better and more efficient equipment which has improved the appearance of OPREE. Additional subscriptions by libraries of universities and theological seminaries as well as continued financial support by a number of church headquarters has enabled OPREE to continue on a sound though quite limited financial basis.

In the first issue of Volume 3 we are presenting articles by two experts on Eastern Europe, one on Yugoslavia, the other on East Germany. Stella Alexander, an American living in Great Britain, has a thorough acquaintance of Yugoslavia. She resided long periods of time in that country until she was abruptly asked to leave in 1972 while researching her book, Church and State in Yugoslavia since 1945. The authorities presumably concluded that Ms. Alexander obtained an altogether too accurate reading of church-state relations. Her book is highly recommended. In this article she explores the relationship between religion and nationalism, one of the most complex and most bedeviling problems facing both the churches and the government in Yugoslavia.

Professor Peter Maser was a former East German who now resides and teaches in West Germany. Certain problems within a church or society cannot be adequately perceived by outsiders no matter how keen their power of observation. Maser, with a clear analytical mind and with the sensitivities of an insider in his article, "Suffering from the Church? Aspects of Uneasiness at the Church Basis," describes processes taking place in East German churches which often elude the outside observers. Refreshingly, the author's views do not seem to reflect an exaggerated hostility which often characterizes emigrant writings. His writing unveils the inner dynamics of East German Churches perceptively and with obvious concern.

Paul Mojzes, editor