

France

Non-Aligned Call For Oil Embargo Will Cause Split Among French Capitalists

Aug. 20 (NSIPS) — The Non-Aligned countries' adoption of debt moratoria and a "universal monetary system" and their call for an oil embargo in response to French arms sales to South Africa are likely to create immediate pandemonium in the ranks of the French capitalist class. It is well-known that the two areas of Atlanticist policy thus attacked and potentially destroyed by the Third World — Wall Street's genocidal debt collection and Giscard's systematic agency on behalf of Secretary of State Kissinger in Africa — have been a major bone of contention between the Atlanticist-led French government and its reluctant Gaullist allies.

Apart from the "Jacobin" wing of the French Communist Party (PCF), which today approved the Non-Aligned countries' embargo decision in the name of Gaullist foreign policy principles, major — if often unpublicized — fractures have already appeared in capitalist ranks.

In the long run, possibly the most significant factional development will turn out to be the now explicit support of widespread industrialist layers for the monetary initiatives just taken by the Non-Aligned. Virtually all key industrial sectors have by now sided against the dollar empire and the insane monetary float consecrated by last year's Rambouillet agreements. Although the French management association CNPF has not been particularly outspoken on this issue this summer, it is well-known that CNPF representatives of high technology industries such as steel, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, auto and aerospace, fundamentally share the position of anti-Atlanticist spokesman and Gaullist leader Michel Debré, for whom a return to the gold standard is an urgent and often expressed necessity. The views of the Péchiney-Ugine-Kuhlman director reprinted below are typical of these layers.

In addition, para-parliamentary Gaullist organizations such as the Union des Jeunes pour le Progrès (UJP) — the UDR Gaullist party's former youth group — have publicly announced their support for the Third World's initiatives and a gold-backed monetary system. Given the extensive relations of the UJP with top leadership layers in the Gaullist movement as a whole, unequivocal endorsements of the Colombo summit's decisions by these circles are imminent.

By contrast, the Atlanticist wing of the French capitalist rulers has rigorously nothing to offer to counteract the present attacks against the Franc in the exchange markets, or to lay the foundations of the firm anti-inflationary policy advocated by Debré and others. All trade-unions — and the CNPF as well — have already stated their opposition to the zero growth austerity "consensus" which Giscard d'Estaing and his ministers have been calling for, as a direct result of the government's refusal to assign clear production and financial goals to the economy. The entire financial press accuses Giscard of having nothing but a "whimsical" and "impotent" program.

The immediate consequence of these developments is that the projected reshuffling of the government is jeopardized. Giscard's desire to replace his pseudo-Gaullist Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is well-known, but no alternative to the current "whimsical" patchwork government policy is in sight, making a change of personnel meaningless, especially in view of the potential for outright rebellion in the UDR, the government majority's most numerous component.

The fantasy-prone Giscard d'Estaing is beginning to tell his close associates that only the final "presidentialization" of the regime (in other words, a dictatorship) would allow him to ram Wall Street's fascist deindustrialization program down the throat of the French population. François Fetjo, a CIA agent paid by the International Association for Cultural Freedom, wrote in *Quotidien de Paris* this week that only the "fascism with a human face" concocted simultaneously in the U.S. and Britain by such Rockefeller institutions as the Initiative Committee for a New Economic Policy (ICNEP) could "work" in France today, as both Giscard and his "left" counterpart François Mitterrand would agree to jointly sponsor it. This testifies to the desperation of Wall Street's pro-"consensus" forces in France.

The following are excerpts from a two-part article series by Gaullist baron Michel Debré which appeared in Le Monde Aug. 19 and 20:

Themes for Reshuffling

Part one — The weakness of the Franc

...If Great Britain owes its international effacement to inflation, if Italy will owe the end of its democracy to it, inversely the resolute policy of Germany ensures it a dominant role, cooperation with the USA and the respect of the Soviet Union... (Inflation) eats away at our economic capacity, our political power. It is true that there are announcements (by the government —ed.) of a real effort in the month to come... But looking at it closer, there can be no doubt this is only an appearance...

In the times in which we live, we must be conscious of two realities:

- the (cost) increase of raw materials and energy
- the strength of world economic competition where all blows are allowed

... We must observe next that the desirable increase in buying power is linked to the growth of production. This growth requires industrial orientations, some as a prolongation of what was done for years (under the Gaullist administration —ed.) and others adapted to new circumstances. This growth also requires labor and not Malthusianism. This growth finally also requires a great will for the professional training of youth and notably a re-examination of a good part of our university schooling and even our technical schooling... We need money for the development of the high-technology industries, for the pursuit of our sanitary and social equipment, for national defense and our nuclear capacity, and last but not least to modify the tendency of young couples towards dematernity...

But this necessary policy is only compatible with the stability of the Franc, that is to say, in the final analysis, the result of a wise policy of national revenue sharing...

Part two

... Resorting ceaselessly to the "social consensus" amounts in effect to negating government, it is in any case to take the risk of gravely altering its legitimacy... The task of government is to take initiatives, to orient business from the standpoint of an overall conception, to decide in the name and the interest of public well-being. To tie oneself up through the search for a priori consensus is to negate oneself...

However, over the the past few years, in France, one has

hidden behind the absence of social consensus to refuse to struggle against excessive inflation...

The search for social consensus... supposes prolonged and sincere information, which does not exist; agreements with the trade unions suppose that confederal professional organizations are... to be obeyed by all their members, and that the State-Manager begins by giving the example, which is not the case...

In the end, the "social consensus" is granted to men who are able to impose in due time the discipline short of which there is for a nation neither prosperity nor pride, and for men, neither progress nor liberty.

The following are excerpts from an editorial in L'Humanité, daily of the French Communist Party, Aug. 20.

"An alarm signal" by Yves Moreau

At the Colombo conference, which has just gathered the representatives of 85 Non-Aligned countries, the policy of Giscard's government was violently attacked, as never before in such an assembly. Numerous heads of states or of governments denounced colonialism's resistance in Djibouti, and the partition of the Comoro Islands.

But it is especially the arms supplies to the fascist regime of South Africa, and the recent conclusion of a contract promising it nuclear power plants, which provoked general indignation in Colombo. To such an extent that the political declaration prepared by the conference advocates an oil embargo against France... (This declaration) testifies to the degradation of France's relations with countries whose inhabitants number in the hundred of millions. Countries whose friendship should have been sought and cultivated by a government concerned with the national interest. Countries with which a fruitful cooperation could and should be developed, for their sake and ours.

The Colombo declaration deserves to be heard by French public opinion like an alarm signal. In the eyes of whoever is concerned with the prestige and grandeur of France, and who remembers in this regard the achievements of General de Gaulle's policy, the Colombo declaration makes perceptible all that Mr. Giscard d'Estaing is presently ruining.

... (Giscard's) attempts to confuse us do not go beyond such grossly demagogical formulas that they can less and less fool anyone. Thus, when Mr. Giscard d'Estaing proclaims "Africa to the Africans!" and when, simultaneously, French arms massacre in apartheid's black ghettos... To preserve, along with peace, our friendships in the world, this Giscardian policy must also be disavowed by France at the earliest opportunity...

The following are excerpts from an NSIPS interview with Bernard Loth, head of the left Gaullist Union of Young Progressives (UJP) on Aug. 19 in Paris.

I support the debt moratorium proposal. But I only want it

simultaneously with a fundamental change of the whole world monetary system, not just a little reform which will leave us bankrupt within the dollar system in a few months. We must go back to the gold standard, not the dollar — but gold.

When the young Giscardians (youth group of Atlantist president Giscard d'Estaing —ed.) came back from China, they said, "In the year 2,000, it will be Mao and Giscard." Well, let me tell you, when I heard that I had to giggle, I just had to chuckle softly to my self. I never heard anything so ridiculous in my life. When you read De Gaulle, you read content. When you read Giscard... well, I ask you. And as for Mao, I am reading it now and I can say that I have rarely hit on anything of such gross dullness.

Giscard cannot go any further in the abrogation of powers to himself that he has already carried out without calling for a new constitution. He does everything himself or rather he tries to and the result is he is doing nothing but playing the regent... of course, if he continues with his stupidities, it's no problem, there will be a popular uprising and he will be forced to resign.

Kissinger is a bastard. The way he asslicked De Gaulle up to 1970 and what he has been doing now is absolutely horrifying. I am reading his books and they would freak you out. He has systematically set about destroying all of De Gaulle's work.

Mr. Loth also commented on French Communist Party Secretary General Georges Marchais' national radio interview in which he endorsed Jimmy Carter for the U.S. Presidency: Marchais is "mentally incompetent."

**Péchiney-Ugine-Kuhlman Spokesman:
"We Are For A New Monetary System"**

PARIS, Aug. 17 (NSIPS) — Mr. Assouad, a Director of Péchiney-Ugine-Kuhlman, the second largest French industrial firm and one of the largest non-ferrous metal producers in the world, told NSIPS today that: "We need a new monetary system... The only question is that of reserve. Gold is the best (Reserve) since it has been shown that raw materials would not work." Queried about the Bandaranaike proposal for a new world bank to finance development made at the Colombo meeting of the non-aligned, Mr. Assouad stated: "It is political rather than something which could be immediately implemented. However, again we are not opposed to a new monetary system, but the raw material scheme would collapse in three months. We have to do better than that... The problem is to get Third World countries to agree among themselves so that the backing for such an agreement would work, since their governments are usually very unstable."

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