

New Gaullist Movement Calls for Break With Dollar, Cooperation With Third World

Dec. 8 (NSIPS) — The resurgence of Gaullism as the hegemonic political force in France has sent shockwaves throughout the Atlanticist community now at a loss to prevent the almost unavoidable fall of the pro-Wall Street government of French President Giscard d'Estaing. Foremost in the Atlanticists' mind is the Dec. 5 founding conference of a new Gaullist movement, "Rassemblement pour la République" (Rallying for the Republic — RPR). With attendance at over 50,000, the conference has been characterized as the "biggest political rally in French history."

While the delegates voted up the nomination of Jacques Chirac — who was a faithful implementer of Atlanticist policy during his tenure as France's Premier earlier this year — as its president, the conference was clearly a massive endorsement of the policies of non-alignment put forward by Gaullist "baron" Michel Debré. Delegated to address the gathering on foreign policy, Debré reiterated the need to "fight inflation," that is, break with the dollar empire (where the Gaullists publicly locate the primary source of inflation). Outlining what will be the official policy of development and cooperation with the Third World. The nomination of Jérôme Monod as RPR general secretary, an experienced hand in Third World policy and a delegate in the Debré-led cabinet under de Gaulle (1959-62), was further evidence of Debré's influence.

The founding principles of the RPR proclaim the need for an "independent France," free from foreign (i.e., American) interference, for the massive development of industry combined with raising the educational level of the population and eradicating poverty at home, and for a French role in fostering world cooperation.

"All Layers of Society Represented"

The following excerpts are taken from correspondent André Passeron's account of the Gaullist congress proceedings in Le Monde Dec. 9.

UDR militants by the thousands, sympathisers in the thousands and thousands, 60,000 in total gave M. Jacques Chirac a triumphal but wise reception on December 5 at the Porte de Versailles... He was heard by this unusual crowd where youth were numerous, where all layers of society were represented and among whom some had come great distances on ten special trains, three hundreds busses, and innumerable cars...

Not a single incident marred this great conference of the population, which took place in a serene and sometimes serious atmosphere, but above all without any outbursts despite the frequent applause which punctuated the speeches — 90 times for Chirac, 38 for Debré...

The provocation so feared by the Rassemblement organizers came with the intervention of police forces against the *Parisien Libéré* printing workers... M. Labbé (head of the Gaullist parliamentary group —ed.) clarified that this was a "contemptible maneuver" on the part of the government as it would have the effect of provoking a press strike, thus reducing the audience of the Rassemblement, to which 600 French and foreign correspondents attended, as well as diplomatic representatives of 60 countries...

... M. Chirac underlined in his morning speech that the Gaullists "have become the essential force of the majority and are the only ones there to represent the totality of the French people," while for M. Sanguinetti, the Rassemblement is "alone capable of making hope change camps" (from the Left to the Gaullists)"; meanwhile M. Debré expressed his hope for "a government of public safety and national unanimity" and according with his habit, made the room buzz with his speech...

Debré: Cooperation of Nations France's Supreme Objective

The following are excerpts of the speech given by former French Prime Minister Michel Debré on Dec. 5 at the extraordinary congress of the Gaullist party on the occasion of the founding of the "Rassemblement pour la République":

The fight once again begins tomorrow. The fight once again begins tonight. You are the soldiers of this immense, always renewed, army which General de Gaulle inspired for 30 years... Because France is going through a grave economic, social and political crisis, because we feel it (France) undermined by aggressive forces, because we feel the hesitations of the government,... you intend to take up the task once again, this task which has but one name: the greatness of France...

Conquest, domination through arms... are no longer the path we follow. The greatness of France is its will for progress, its will to shine both peacefully and usefully. Progress? It is first the progress of dignity. Then the progress of the spirit (or mind). And we know its road: an ardent policy of science, of high technology, of culture. The will to shine? It is the audacity for undertakings. The effort to be present in the entire world through the products of our labor and the capacity of our engineers, it is the constant diffusion of our knowledge and our ideas.

Let us encourage our youth to be passionately concerned with these struggles, of which they will be both the artisans and the beneficiaries. This is how by giving them confidence in themselves, pride in themselves, they will embark upon this crusade for the

greatness of France by putting this greatness at the disposal of the universal cooperation of nations. For this cooperation is our supreme objective!"

...

May France remain master and sole master of its destiny! May it never be chained down through alignment... It is not prohibited to want to be faithful to the camaraderie of Free France and the Résistance... During the course of the months to come, I will lead a great struggle. With others. With you. We must not accept, under present circumstances, under conditions which are imposed upon us, the election of 81 deputies to a multinational assembly, supposedly named European Parliament... The Europe for which we have ambition will be the expression of the will of States which want their legitimate authority only to decide on their destiny and ensure their alliances, détente, cooperation, without getting their instructions from outside of Europe. Europe will move towards a confederation, that is to say an association of nations which will respect the sovereignty of France, or else it will not be...

I have spoken in the desert since 1972. Less investment, less employment, social tensions, balance of payments deficit, devaluation of the Franc... And everything will continue in the same way as long as our will to ensure the strength of France will not be translated by:

— an incomes policy, without which any contractual policy is a risk,

— an ardent and voluntarist plan, without which fossilization and Malthusianism will reappear.

— strict management of public finances and the social budget of the nation...

Brutally reject those who proclaim the dangers of world over-population...

General de Gaulle was able to seize popular affection because the people recognized in him the fundamental qualities which call for the most humble confidence... Let us dare to make an exception of ourselves in political circles, and bring ourselves up to the level of the French people. To put ourselves in a position, if it became necessary, to form the soul of a government of public safety and national unanimity...

Friends, compagnons, militants,... you have never disappointed me... May the wind of history once again lead us to victory!"

Communists Will Not Support 1981 Socialist Candidate

Dec. 10 (NSIPS) —George Marchais, Secretary General of the French Communist Party, told a radio audience last Sunday that the French Communists will "almost certainly not" support a Socialist candidate in the 1981 presidential elections. Marchais' statement came on the same day as the Gaullist party held its national congress and, like the UDR meeting, marks the developing split between Gaullists and Communists on the one hand, and the Socialist Party and President Giscard d'Estaing on the other. By threatening not to support the SP, the PCF is warning the SP against moving any closer to a coalition with President Giscard. In a similar move, at a

parliamentary vote on increasing the budgetary powers of the European Parliament, the Socialists voted with the Giscard government, while the Communists voted against. Leading Gaullists, such as Michel Debré, abstained.

France Out of Wall Street Control

Dec. 10 (NSIPS) — In a feature article in the *Wall Street Journal* Dec. 8, Wall Street vented its fear that France is rapidly slipping out of their control, both politically and economically. According to the WSJ there are three probable fates awaiting France over the next months: 1) The economic program of Prime Minister Barre succeeds and the Gaullist-Giscardian ruling coalition wins the legislative elections in 1978; 2) the plan fizzles and the electorate turns to the Union of the Left alliance of Socialists and Communists; 3) "The plan fails disastrously, touching off massive unrest that could tip France suddenly into the leftists' hands, or somewhat more likely, further to the right"... "France scares the hell out of me," said a Ford Administration spokesman... A politically unstable France would be bad news for NATO, while France in many ways does not cooperate with NATO, it does cooperate more than it is willing to admit... The political hazards (only) intensified with last weekend's rally of a revitalised Gaullist party that could undercut the governing coalition."

LAZARD FRERES:

Economic Investments Await Spring Elections

Exclusive to NSIPS

Dec. 10 (NSIPS) — A spokesman for the Lazard Frères investment house informed NSIPS this week that because of the political uncertainties in France, there could be no real hope for resolving the economic crisis until after the spring municipal elections are out of the way. Accusing President Giscard d'Estaing of only further confusing the economic situation by his "personal touches" to the economic plan of Prime Minister Barre, the Lazard spokesman assured NSIPS that investment in France at the present time was completely "unjustified." On the political front, the banker was, however, quite optimistic that the rejuvenated Gaullist Party, nominally led by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac could successfully challenge the Union of the Left alliance of Socialists and Communists and President Giscard's centrist "mish mash." The Lazard spokesman concluded his comments with speculation that in fact, the new Gaullist party would successfully sweep significant voters out of the Communist Party and into their own camp. This, he insinuated, was the real source of worry for Socialist leader François Mitterrand, who last week hysterically accused Chirac of being a fascist.