

"The Irish Government regards the application of economic sanctions as no longer appropriate and will therefore be seeking the withdrawal of these sanctions by the Community."

An Irish embassy spokesman in Bonn told *EIR* that his government is confident that the rest of the EC will back Ireland's call for an end to sanctions. The West Germans "will sit on the fence for a while," he said; the French "are beginning to move. . . . Mitterrand is under tremendous pressure." Belgium and Italy are also moving closer to the Irish position, he reported.

Spain blasts Britain's colonialism

The Spanish government denounced Great Britain's bombing of the airfield at Port Stanley May 3—one of the first military operations in the Malvinas conflict—as a "serious escalation of the conflict" which if continued would be "a grave historic error." This was the first open attack on British policy to come from a Western European country.

Spain had been the only Western European nation to abstain in the April 2 United Nations Security Council resolution calling for Argentine withdrawal from the Malvinas. Spain's position is that U.N. resolution 502 fails to take account of the problem of colonialism. Now the British escalation of the conflict has rekindled violent hatred of Britain among wide strata of the Spanish population. The smooth entry of Spain into NATO and the European Community is suddenly placed in jeopardy; informed sources report that King Juan Carlos is having a difficult time restraining members of the armed forces who would like to boot the British out of Gibraltar immediately.

A recent editorial in the newspaper *ABC*, a publication close to government circles, sums up the prevalent view: "For Spain to return to the Western community means a new and sincere understanding with England. This is impossible unless we get Gibraltar back. . . . A European nation cannot be integrated with dignity into the Atlantic group without demanding . . . the end of an ancient colonial situation."

Letters to the editor of Spanish newspapers reflect the popular indignation. Said one reader to the daily *El País*: "English 'democracy' is responsible for the subjugation of entire peoples in the four corners of the globe . . . of brutal repressions, and deserves at least as great a condemnation as the Argentine regime." Another letter declared: "[Is Mrs. Thatcher] not lying, when we recall that it was the English who defended, in letters to the press, the excellence of Francoism? . . . Have a little bit of honesty, Mrs. Thatcher! It is you British who have been the world's teachers in the support of despots and oligarchies of every category whenever it was a question of defending British imperial interests!"

Conference Report

Challenge posed to French opposition

by Dana Sloan from Paris

At an April 28 Paris conference sponsored by *EIR* on "Recreating the Conditions for Economic Growth in France," Jacques Cheminade, President of the National Committee for Nuclear Energy, and Philip Golub, *EIR* bureau chief in Wiesbaden, West Germany established for leaders of the Giscardian and Gaullist parties who participated that any fight for economic development was completely political. Cheminade, who is also Secretary-General of the European Labor Party in France, made it clear to those participants, who had lost France to the Socialists last year, that he does not support nuclear energy because it is a good idea, but because its development is essential if the world is to survive the present crisis.

Cheminade attacked the Socialist government of François Mitterrand, which has brought France to the edge of economic disaster in one year, as "pagan," because, he said, its leaders are incapable of understanding what the great 16th-century builder of the nation-state, Jean Bodin, meant in stating that "there is no wealth but men."

The Socialists were able to come to power in France attempting to convince the population that jobs would be created if nuclear energy were replaced by "soft" energy sources. The Socialists within the state electricity monopoly, Electricité de France, including M. Puiseux, former collaborator of EDF director Marcel Boiteux, had for years carried out an "inside" job to sabotage public support for the nuclear program first elaborated by Prime Minister Pierre Messmer and Industry Minister André Giraud under President Giscard. It was this ambitious nuclear program that made France the world's third-greatest exporting nation and fifth-greatest industrial power.

The National Committee for Nuclear Energy had already won several victories, Cheminade declared. They had forced the government to back down from its original intention of dismantling the nuclear program, but that was not enough. "The fight for nuclear energy cannot exist as a defense of a particular plant. . . . The fight for nuclear energy must be fought on an interna-



Jacques Cheminade

tional level . . . this is why, as a first step, we created the Franco-German Committee for Nuclear Energy. President de Gaulle understood this perspective: he described in his memoirs why he gave Algeria its independence: in order that France might devote itself to the great scientific tasks ahead of it."

Cheminade closed with a declaration that "We must replace the role of usury with the rule of profit and the creation of wealth," for which he said a gold-backed credit-generating system is required, and further, an educational system that will "teach each child the highest scientific conceptions to guarantee our future mastery over the physical processes of the universe."

Yves Galland, a deputy to the European Parliament in Strasbourg from the UDF, the Giscardian coalition of parties, and a specialist on energy, agreed with Cheminade that the solution to the world's energy needs beyond the year 2000 had to be sought now. "Energy consumption in the world will have to triple," he said. The Socialists' anti-nuclear campaign was based on the claim that "renewable" energies would take the place of nuclear. At best, energy sources such as solar could provide only 5 to 7 percent of the energy needs of the future.

There is no European policy on nuclear energy now, Galland told the audience; the European Community is pressuring the new EC energy commissioner, Count Davignon, to come up with proposals. Anti-nuclear resolutions introduced by the Italian Radical Party and the Belgian Socialists, have been roundly defeated, he said, and so should environmentalist demands for Europe-wide security standards for nuclear plants, so long as there is no Europe-wide commitment to nuclear power; the nation of France, Galland declared, "is not going to ask the Belgian environmentalists for their opinion on nuclear security." In West Germany, he deplored the fact that the Free Democratic Party, Chancellor Schmidt's coalition partner, "has become more environmentalist than the environmentalists," because it fears losing that margin of votes.

Henri Bordes-Pages, national secretary of the CGC, the white-collar union confederation, told the conference

that his union supports nuclear development, including development of the fast-breeder reactor, not only because it means jobs, but also because the nation's "economic and human independence" rests on these issues.

Dialogue with Giscardians

The next speaker, Philippe Pontet, Vice-President of the Giscardian think tank Clubs Perspectives et Réalités, invited discussion from the floor on how to renew French industry. The audience, comprised of industrialists, engineers, trade union leaders, and leaders of farmers's organizations, had grasped that it was necessary now to go beyond the limited political and economic policies that lost the Giscardians their majority. France now has to "concentrate its means on its strong points" to develop, because of the Socialist policy which "gives little handouts in all directions."

Statements from the audience at this point had an intensity that struck Pontet and other participants. An electrical engineer stood up to insist on "a non-linear perspective" in industrial policy, geared toward creating entire new industries on the basis of the latest breakthroughs in physics and other branches of science. "We need a grand design, a vision of progress," to give the French people, Pontet responded, "and I must admit that the former majority did not know how to speak to the hearts of the people, to make them dream, to give them a grand design."

In the next session, the Secretary-General of the small town of Belleville-sur-Loire, Mme. Maude Girault, and the town's Gaullist mayor, M. Barat, documented the economic effect of a nuclear power plant on their community. The population has risen from 288 in 1975, when the municipal council gave unanimous support to building the plant, to over 1,000, most of whom are expected to remain after construction is completed, transforming the predominantly agricultural town into a small beehive of industrial activity. Henri Ardouin, founder of the French Society for Nuclear Energy in the Poutou-Charente region, presented a film on the overall economic consequences of nuclear energy, followed by a discussion of applications of nuclear technology in improving agriculture, food processing, and fishing.

EIR bureau chief Philip Golub presented the collapse of the American economy as a paradigm for the effects of monetarist policy on industry, emphasizing that Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker's claim of a victory against inflation had been achieved by bringing every industrial sector to the brink of collapse; for every point that inflation "dropped," production has gone by 2 percent. France must draw on its immediately available resources, pre-eminently the policies of de Gaulle's economic adviser Jacques Rueff, if it is to reverse monetarist policy there.