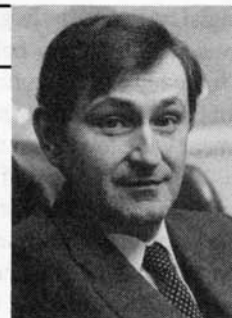

Interview: Jacques Cheminade



Making France governable, after the fall of Socialists

The president of the Schiller Institute in France was interviewed by Christine Schier for EIR on March 25, three days after the cantonal elections. As EIR reported last week, Mr. Cheminade and three associates were recently indicted on trumped-up financial charges, in a political effort to silence them in the midst of the present tumultuous political changes in France.

EIR: The results of the March 22 elections are said to have marked the end of postwar political patterns in France. Traditional parties were rejected and the Socialist Party (PS) suffered the biggest loss of any ruling party. Is this part of the breakdown of the Versailles system?

Cheminade: These elections are the end of the socialist regime in France: with 18.3% of the total vote, the PS had the worst score in the last 20 years. Defense Minister Pierre Joxe, head of the socialist list in the Paris area, for example, got 14.5% of the vote as against 28% in the 1986 elections! The right-wing RPR-UDF coalition got only 33% of the total vote, about 8% less than in 1986.

Thus, all the "protest parties" and dissident lists together got the rest, i.e., about 49% of the vote. The ecologists got 14.7% of the vote, but are divided into two different groups, the fundamentalist Greens (Les Verts) and the moderates, known as "Génération Ecologie," sponsored by the socialists. Le Pen's National Front got 13.9%, some some 4.2% more than in 1986, but much less than anticipated by its leaders and the press. The Communist Party reached only 8%, its historical low point. The rest of the vote scattered among various forces, notably dissident right-wingers (4.2%), and "Hunters, Fishermen, and Tradition" (about 2% in total, but more than 10% in some regions, with a maximum in the Bordeaux area).

This means that the electorate is fed up with all existing parties, and is demanding something new. The old right-left division is dead, but there is no organized alternative. In that sense, the old order has broken down, leaving nothing to replace it, save a period of chaos and confusion to come. Some observers in France are well aware that this is exactly what the American Embassy in Paris wants: a no-government situation in France.

EIR: Will France become ungovernable as some are gloating?

Cheminade: Let's be clear: "Some" means London and Washington, and beyond that the "government above governments" which Fletcher Prouty refers to in his recent interview in *Unità* (see p. 46). Whether this happens or not depends on to what extent a handful of individuals intervene into what is, in fact, justified discontent, with a programmatic approach, the one that I and my associates are fighting for—the Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle. In order for France to be "governable," there must be a program opposed to the liberal economics of the likes of Jeffrey Sachs and Henry Kissinger. The political force I lead may be marginal, but I bring in that new perspective; that's why, under the sway of the American Embassy in Paris, a group of "Atlanticists" within the French institutions are trying to slander me and use the French justice system for political ends, as is being done against Lyndon LaRouche in the United States.

EIR: Why do you think Jean-Marie Le Pen and the National Front did not get as high results as expected?

Cheminade: Although a lot of voters are unhappy with the *nomenklatura*, they understand that there is something very fishy in Le Pen's anti-establishment ravings. Le Pen's xenophobia and his obsession with a blood-and-soil "Frenchness," through which he opposes Africans, only feeds into the "North vs. South" strategy of the Anglo-American elites. I see Le Pen as a dependable tool in the hands of those forces, their dirty handkerchief, so to speak. Many in France sense that.

EIR: Ten years ago, the environmentalists represented a tiny part of the electorate. Today France has the largest ecologist movement in Europe. What appeal do they have? Are overpopulation and denying development to the Third World the main issues?

Cheminade: There are two types of ecologist voters: the rabid, murderous malthusians, who are addicted to the ravings of Jacques Cousteau et al., and the moderates, who think that to be kind to nature, animals, and the Third World is enough to make policy. The second, dominant group is ecol-

ogist by default; a large chunk of them are even pro-nuclear, and most of them believe in justice for the Third World. Some have gone so far as to denounce the mass sterilization of Brazilian women, and say that only technological development will slow down the growth of the world population.

Evidently, apart from the lunatics and the murderous, anti-science extremists, there is great confusion. The real issue here is Christian economics, the connection between morality and advancement of the universe. When this issue is powerfully brought forward, those who act as the battering ram of the Anglo-American counterculture, those whom my Algerian friends call the "imperialist greenies," can be isolated. My job is to do just that.

EIR: Your movement also took part in a limited way in the cantonal elections. These candidates introduced some issues which were otherwise not heard at all; saving agriculture from the GATT negotiations, a European-wide infrastructure program, and development of Africa.

Cheminade: We ran, as a test, eight candidacies under the name of Nouvelle Solidarité (New Solidarity). Two candidates got between 3 and 5% of the vote, and five others between 1 and 2%. With absolutely no money and only two weeks of campaigning, this result is significant. In those neighborhoods where we talked to 400 people, we got more than 60 votes, so there is an unprecedented openness to ideas, and discussion over programmatic approaches. There is also a strong "anti-Bush" feeling, and even anti-Americanism, because of his economics and, among the better-informed, because of his military policies.

EIR: How did you come to choose the name Nouvelle Solidarité?

Cheminade: Because, as a close supporter put it, it was Poland's Solidarność, in French *Solidarité*, that collapsed the dictatorships in the East; today, what is called for from the West, is a just program for the East. Moreover, the monetarist dictatorships right here at home must go. A movement has to be built to do that, a citizens' movement. We have called it "Nouvelle Solidarité," against the Versailles *ancien régime*. . . . People take to the idea of such an anti-*nomenklatura* programmatic force, so internationalist that it must be patriotic in the real sense, in the best tradition of France, not for its green pastures and so-called pure bloodlines. The French still read history avidly, and our feature centerfolds in the newspaper *Nouvelle Solidarité* have already educated more than a few.

EIR: What are your perspectives for the future? Legislative elections are scheduled for 1993.

Cheminade: We want to run 75 candidates to be registered as a national party. We think there is great potential if we are a bit more creative than in our past efforts. A few friends feel the same.

Will Colombia tread Venezuela's path?

by Valerie Rush

Despite the protestations of the César Gaviria government that the revolutionary ferment in next-door Venezuela could never take root in Colombia, the fact is that Gaviria's embrace of Bush administration policies demanding the internationalization of Ibero-America's debt-strangled and drug-bloated economies, and power-sharing with Marxist terrorists, may leave Colombians with no option but to tread their neighbors' path.

Indeed, the devastation wrought by Gaviria's so-called *apertura* (opening), a package of free trade and privatization measures designed to re-make the Colombian economy into a playground for drug cartel investors and their international financiers, is now forcing widespread resistance to the surface.

For example, under the *apertura*, the elimination of import barriers, of preferential development credit, and of price supports has driven many food producers to the verge of bankruptcy and is forcing the abandonment of food and even coffee croplands to poppy growers with their own sources of financing. Agricultural associations like the prestigious Society of Colombian Growers (SAC), have written letters to Gaviria's Finance and Agriculture ministries demanding a halt to dumping policies disguised as "free imports."

At the same time, a forced policy of disinvestment in the country's electrical energy grid over the past decade—thanks to the imposed "adjustment programs" of the World Bank, in particular—has led to the current situation of 18 hours a week of electricity rationing throughout the country, and as much as 27 hours a week in the industrial heartland of Medellín. It is feared that rationing could go as high as 72 hours a week, if drought conditions persist, and could last a year or more.

Another Ibero-American 'tax shock'

What has triggered the most outrage and unified economic and political opposition forces across the spectrum is Gaviria's newly proposed tax reform, on the model of the infamous "tax shocks," or *impuestazos* which have been imposed in Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, and elsewhere. Although Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes claims that the purpose of the reform is to get additional resources into the hands of provincial authorities, to meet seriously under-financed