

GISCARD'S GOVERNMENT TO DISMANTLE FRENCH INDUSTRY

Oct. 29 (IPS)--In an unusually frank interview with the Paris daily Le Figaro, French Minister of Industry Michel D'Ornano conceded Oct. 26 that he is a key man in charge of implementing Rockefeller's de-industrialization plan for France.

The crux of his program rests on one simple fact: That "the ne increase in oil prices will impose a scarcity economy on France." With this principle of his policy made clear, D'Ornano outlined the remedies to the crisis:

(1) Eliminate "waste" and reduce the consumption of industrial fuel. This the Minister proposes to accomplish primarily by forcing industrial firms to "retool." Given the drastic credit restrictions imposed by the French government on the entire industry, necessary funds will be made available for this purpose upon recommendation by the Minister, "case by case." In other words, D'Ornano will selectively blackmail French industrialists into submitting to the Rockefeller relocation plan. If they do not, he will provoke their bankruptcy.

(2) Imports of natural gas and coal from the USSR, the North Sea, and Iran will be increased, while the French coal mining industry is shut down.

(3) The nationalized Electricite de France and Gaz de France concerns, already heavily in debt, will have to finance their operations on the French or foreign financial markets, whether there is credit available or not. Anyhow, French consumers will not be babbied any longer, D'Ornano said, "as we must progressively tend toward truthful prices (sic) for electricity and gas in 1975 and the following years."

(4) Deals between oil-producing countries and France are a good thing, according to D'Ornano. "We must help them build up their heavy industry, their auto industry in particular," he stated. As a result, D'Ornano favors "diversification" (dismantling) policies for Renault and industrial "cooperation" (i.e., export of both capital goods and labor to the Third World).

The actual nature of D'Ornano's fascist functions is no longer a secret. As Le Figaro notes at the end of the interview, D'Ornano's responsibilities seem to grow as he is less and less "Minister of Industrial and Scientific Development." "Development" is simply out of the question, Le Figaro states. On the other hand, D'Ornano may claim soon to be called "Minister of Reconversion." "We should add: of permanent reconversion," concludes Le Figaro.