

# Gaullist Movement Finds Strategic Leadership In Jobert

April 24 (IPS) — Gaullist Michel Jobert emerged this week as that movement's heir apparent to General DeGaulle — proposing that France take responsibility for building an independent liberated Europe, and a France whose government would adopt a policy of social and economic progress with communist backing. This "New Resistance" conception has rallied the support of leading centrist and former Education Minister Joseph Fontanet, as well as such leading Gaullist "barons" as Michel Debré, who have expressed confidence in their ability to win over the bulk of the French Communist Party through a massive propaganda effort around their program to defeat the Atlanticists.

The common agreement on the Jobert leadership has consolidated the Gaullists' preparations for dumping the Giscard Atlanticist government and going ahead with a "government of public safety" as outlined by baron Michel Debré several months ago. Having already ripped gaping holes in Atlanticist economic and political policy for Europe, the Gaullists are not set up to carry out their coup.

Former Foreign Minister Jobert, writing in the April issue of the literary *Nouvelle Revue des Deux Mondes*, made an explosive proposal to crack the Atlanticist control over Europe, arguing that the French strategic nuclear force, DeGaulle's "Force de Frappe," be now conceived as the core element of a European defense. He thus told the trapped West Germans that they need not suffer Atlanticist occupation any longer since NATO can be disbanded and immediately replaced by a truly independent Europe with Gaullist leadership and defense protection. Jobert further specified that the development of this French strategic force must be carried out through European financing "as long as a process of controlled disarmament has not been assured" — a wink to the Soviets that the Gaullists would eventually push for a Soviet-West Europe global agreement on disarmament and development.

Adopting Jobert's voluntarist conceptions as his own, Debré issued a call to arms in *Le Monde*, April 22, for a European counterattack against American monetary "egocentrism." Debré, a fervent advocate of a gold-backed break with the dollar, told his readership straightforwardly that Western civilization will be doomed if immediate action is not taken: "It is by rising against this egocentrism that the West can still have a chance and democracy as well." In his rousing polemic for a government of "public salvation," Debré endorsed Jobert's long-standing argument for a working agreement with the communists, saying plainly that French Communist participation in that government would be necessary to obtain the social consensus to put the economy back on its feet.

Today, the Central Committee of the UDR Gaullist party elected Yves Guena, Debré sponsor and former cabinet head

when Debré was Prime Minister under DeGaulle, to the post of Secretary General. Confirming the "New Resistance" orientation of the Gaullists, Guena roused his audience with key words from the 1940s Liberation period: "Comrades, I deploy you for the battle." The response was spirited, as invited Labor Committee organizers at the meeting reported enthusiastic 60 year old deputies leaving the hall with bundles of posters under their arm. Each time, during Guena's speech, that the name of prominent Gaullist Barons, like Debré, Sanguinetti, Chaban Delmas, was brought up, the audience would cheer and applaud — in sharp contrast to the barely audible claps given to those Gaullists who have compromised with Giscard, like Prime Minister Chirac.

Guena called upon the UDR to cease being solely a parliamentary group, the Party must mobilize to quickly become the leading popular based force in the country. As for UDR contenders in the field, Guena quickly dismissed the French Communists as having "reached a ceiling," indicating Gaullist confidence in winning over its base. Guena focussed his attention on the major Atlanticist left force in the country: the Socialist Party. Characterizing the Socialist leadership as a few Marxists with a lot of "fat notables," Guena instructed UDR cadres: "To reduce the Socialist Party you must not cajole it, but sabre it, not cultivate its local bosses, but seduce its electors, not marry its doctrine, but proclaim our ideas."

This Jobert-inspired attitude was already that of DeGaulle who, in 1958 recruited the Socialist Party base telling them: "You are all social democrats, there is only one socialist and that's me."

Guena laid out the UDR's position relative to the present government as one of critical support for the government of renegade Gaullist Prime Minister Chirac, without once mentioning Giscard. Guena further announced that he would organize commissions to elaborate proposals on foreign and domestic affairs, indicating the barons intention to dictate policies to Giscard and Chirac. Responding to Labor Committee questions, Guena said he was not a foreign policy expert and could not answer our questions on the new world economic order or the Middle East, others in the movement would take care of those questions, but UDR monetary policy was definitively that of "gold convertibility of the dollar."

The tone and perspective of the UDR Central Committee meeting demonstrates to Giscard that he is a prisoner for good of a "UDR State," as the Atlanticist centrist parties has warned him. Thus from his besieged dilapidated fort, Giscard appeared on TV Thursday night only to recite a rosary on his various "reforms," dispatching his sergeant brother-in-law Fabre Luce to rant and rave about Jobert's devilish European proposals on the front page of the conservative daily *Le Figaro*.