

National Assembly, according to the Gaullist constitution of 1958, it is to support the action of the Prime Minister, not to deck the alters of the head of state.

Q: Are you going to step over the breach soon and join the left?

A: No, I refuse to be trapped in one camp. What do you do with a right wing which ignores generosity and has no sense of the nation? What do you do with a left which ignores the necessity of power and does not have the sense of the state? This is what General deGaulle used to tell me in 1958, and I believe that it remains true today.

Michel Debre:

“It Is The Hour Of Truth”

Aug. 18 (NSIPS) — The following are extracts of an interview with Gaullist leader Michel Debré which was broadcast on Aug. 27 on France Inter, a radio station controlled by the government of President Giscard d'Estaing.

Debré: It is the hour of truth. For four years, the disease of the economy has been super-inflation. It is a satisfaction for me to at last see the light shed on this problem.

Q: Is UDR participation in the new government going to be a matter of party or personal responsibility?

Debré: The UDR ministers participate on their own responsibility... The fact that there will be UDR ministers is a good sign; in difficult moments, decisions have to be taken “in view of orientations and priorities... Problems of persons and political membership are secondary. The important thing is to know where the national interest is. I am happily surprised to see the importance attached to the struggle against inflation.

I consider that a Prime Minister who does not agree must draw the consequences...

Q: Should Parliament be reconvened soon?

Debré: ... I don't see the point of a parliamentary session in September... One must never compromise on essential things... Politicians only have one duty: see where the national interest is. We must struggle against devastating inflation... In four years, we have wasted time...

Q: Will the UDR rally to the new regime?

Debré: The UDR is an envelope behind which there are to a large extent men who have faith, who crossed deserts, who have been neither in the Elysée nor in Matignon, who have been nowhere. They can continue to do so today, with alacrity...

Q: Are new alliances possible now within the UDR and within the majority? How about the elections?

Debré: The main reality, for the elections, is multiple candidacies... The leadership of the UDR will be a directive team...

Q: Are you favorable to early elections?

Debré: When one wants to take an 18 months to two years action to succeed, one must wait for time to elapse... I can't see elections taking place in October or November. To envisage elections for next spring would be the most deplorable thing, as then nothing would be done.

Q: What is your view of so-called presidentialism?

Debré: I am not a presidentialist. The lasting character of the Constitution demands that the Prime Minister have an important responsibility.

Q: Isn't Gaullism obsolete?

Debré: Those who say that of Gaullism are themselves opposed to Gaullism, and illustrate miserable periods, like 1940...

Q: Some time ago, you said you would not oppose Mitterrand becoming Prime Minister under Giscard; do you still think the same?

Debré: We are in a democracy, in a republic. This has two consequences: government rotation (“alternance” — between

left and right) is possible if the laws and liberty are respected; or the party in power does everything to stay there.

Q: Can you draw a portrait of Raymond Barre for us?

Debré: Réunion Island can only feel a certain pride that one of its sons is at the head of the government, a pride which Raymond Barre amply deserves not only because of his qualities, but also because of his character.

Q: What do you think of his performance as EEC vice-president?

Debré: I have always seen him defend positions which Gen. de Gaulle would have defended...

Q: Why do you favor an anti-inflation policy?

Debré: If West Germany is in the situation we see today, it is because it applied a policy of incomes moderation. The West Germans have the highest purchasing power in Western Europe, this is a result of successful tripartite agreements... The policy I am calling for would necessarily include “a call for investments,” i.e. a series of measures whose consequences (socially) are eminently fortunate ones. Inflation means a whole series of social injustices...”

Q: So your analysis converges with that of Mr. Mitterrand?

Debré: Mr. Mitterrand's analyses have coincided with mine for a little while. Undoubtedly, he has made progress, in my opinions.

Q: Does Giscard respect the Constitution?

Debré: The institutions are fundamental... But I am against casuistry.

Q: What about your personal future?

Debré: I have devoted my existence to a certain idea of France. I would prefer to have the means to apply it rather than simply write it, or say it on your radio station...”

Other Gaullist Reactions

Alexandre Sanguinetti, Gaullist leader;
National Radio interview, Aug. 23.

“We are going to witness a change of regime (under President Giscard d'Estaing)... Articles 20 and 21 (on the distribution of powers between President and Prime Minister) of the constitution are definitely erased... We will be in a Sixth Republic... I do not know whether Chirac is going to leave, but I advised him to do so...”

Jean Charbonnel, Gaullist leader;
Quotidien de Paris, Aug. 26.

“It has thus been proven, as we have not ceased to say since 1974, that Giscardism and Gaullism are totally incompatible. It is regrettable that Chirac took so long to become aware of this. The moment seems to have come for the Gaullists hidden in this majority since the presidential elections to retake their liberty of action, to enter into a resolute opposition to a system which can no longer ensure the country its independence, nor progress, nor justice.”

World Reactions To The Resignation Of PM Chirac

Le Parisien Libéré, Aug. 26: “Barre is a specialist of European problems, and even more, not depending on any political party, can enlarge the majority towards the center-left. Giscard has said... to open towards the Left, is to want to break up the UDR and stifle the great Gaullist ideas. It is also to reopen the road on which the Third Republic slid France in 1940 (which marks the date of the formation of the Vichy government —ed.)”

Le Quotidien de Paris, Aug. 26: "After what happened yesterday, it would be hard to see a Socialist Prime Minister being content with limited means to govern under Giscard's authority. Yesterday made vain any possibility of collaboration between Giscard and the Socialist Party, things being what they are today on the left."

"Since December 14, 1974, when Chirac formed a "Committee of 44" UDR members to back the candidacy of Giscard against that of Gaullist Chaban-Delmas in the presidential elections, many Gaullists have been more concerned with seeking their revenge against Chirac than against Giscard."

"Are we today again witnessing the break of December 14? Giscard in any case is ready to exploit its memory by a role reversal. Aren't there in the UDR many illustrious people, honest supporters of Chaban-Delmas, who suffered as Giscard does now from Chirac's methods?"

Les Echos, Aug. 26: "The ministerial crisis which is being played out is not reducible to its political component... The tensions from which the rupture came are of an economic order... The laxism of the last years and the irresoluteness of the last months have created a difficult situation and unhealthy climate."

L'Aurore, Aug. 27: "(The problem facing the Gaullists now is) how to avert the risk of a break between pro-governmental and Chiracians. The danger is not theoretical, judging by the reflection of someone close to Chaban-Delmas, who squarely accused Chirac yesterday of 'having succeeded in two years of making us lose the Presidency and the Prime Ministership.'"

L'Humanité, Aug. 26: "Despite considerable efforts, (the government) has reached none of its political objectives. The very narrow base on which it rests tends to shrink, and there is outside the majority no right-wing force capable of serving as an alternative to the big bourgeoisie's power."

"The forces of big capital and reaction want not only to continue, but to worsen the austerity policy, bring the consequences of the crisis of their system to bear even more heavily on the workers and the popular masses..."

"On these objectives, there exists no divergence between the Independent Republican, UDR, and centrist leaders. They agree..."

"On Chirac's side, there is an attempt to keep the patriots worried about the UDR's submission, about Giscard's and Lecanuet's policy of national resignation on the orbit of the reactionary coalition. This maneuver cannot fool anyone. Chirac himself stated on July 30: 'In any case, the UDR is part of the majority, and I want to say that, whatever happens, it will stay in it. It will be an active and loyal partner in the presidential majority.'"

West German Press Reactions

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Aug. 21: "Political observers are saying that new elections are impossible, since they could mean a victory for the Communists and Socialists, and since Giscard cannot count on his own people being able to outmaneuver the Gaullists. (Communist leader) Marchais is saying that he will not accept an austerity program, the government has made impossible promises to the peasants, and (Gaullist ex-Premier) Debré has announced that to continue along the present course will lead to catastrophe."

Sddeutsche Zeitung, Aug. 26: "The President, only supported by the center parties and accidental majorities, no longer has any base in the parliament. With this, the constitutional conflict... has already broken out into the open... The result is an explosive political situation, which cannot be fully evaluated... France is

surely at a turning point which might mean a return to the Fourth Republic."

Frankfurter Rundschau, Aug. 26: "In other words, Giscard has no parliamentary majority behind him. He is backed up against a wall... In the long run, Giscard has only one remaining possibility: he will have to move closer to the left."

U.S. Press Reactions

Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 26: "The appointment of a man known here as a technocrat to succeed the Gaullist leader, Mr. Chirac, was taken as a clear indication that the President intends to hold the reins in his own hands and no longer share administrative power with the Gaullists."

New York Times, Aug. 26: "The way in which the resignation took place, without any public pretense that it was by mutual agreement, appeared to be a slap at Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and presaged future political trouble. Barre has no political base, (and) is expected to follow without question the views of the President... (The Chirac resignation) opens the way for a more clear-cut test of the President's thesis that France is ready to abandon the highly polarized left-right politics instituted when de Gaulle established the Fifth Republic..."

Baltimore Sun, Aug. 26: "The final rupture was prolonged into the usually quiet summer doldrums by the president's need to make the break with the Gaullist leader (Mr. Chirac) as delicately as possible... The president made it clear he wants to reestablish his own authority... Mr. Chirac's departure ends direct Gaullist role in the national leadership... The Gaullist party, which could provoke a serious crisis by moving out of the President's majority in the National Assembly, was reserved in its reaction..."

Japan's Miki Nears Break With Dollar

By Kevin Coogan

Aug. 27 (NSIPS) — The evidence that Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki will fight Rockefeller's furious campaign to bring down his government by both responding positively to the Colombo Resolution on the New World Economic Order, and by negotiating major economic deals and a peace treaty with the USSR emerged late this week in the Japanese press. Miki's clear signals that he is ready for the break with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's hardline against Third World debt moratoria at the upcoming Paris North-South talks is coupled this week with major articles appearing in Soviet and Italian papers giving the embattled Japanese Prime Minister critical international support for his fight for extended economic cooperation with the socialist countries. Such articles also give needed backup to anti-Atlanticist forces within Japan for their break with the dollar empire.

In response to these developments, the New York banks launched their most blatant political and economic assault to date on Japan. Internationally, Rockefeller has mobilized both his pet financial spokesmen such as Robert Roosa et his Congressional lackeys including House Banking Committee chairman Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wisc) to create a public outcry demanding a new "institution" to force Japan to stop "undervaluing" its currency — a demand that the Japanese destroy their economy to support the worthless dollar. Within Japan, the entire cumbersome Rockefeller apparatus, led within the