

currency, the ECU, rolling within a short time, reports one commentator on French government radio. At the European Community's Foreign Minister meeting on Jan. 16, Francois-Poncet first shut up Britain's David Owen who was raising ludicrous questions on the agricultural prices policy. Francois-Poncet told him that "since Britain doesn't participate in the EMS it has no right to make any demands."

The problem of the agricultural compensation question was then handled swiftly and efficiently. Francois-Poncet decided to convene a joint financial, agricultural, and foreign ministers meeting to settle the issue in the coming days.

Speaking to the European press on the meaning of France's presidency of the community, Francois-Poncet said he intended to accomplish the following tasks in the months ahead:

- 1) Realize the EMS.
- 2) Renegotiate the Lomé convention with 56 developing nations by July.
- 3) Bring Spain, Portugal and Greece into the European Community.
- 4) Negotiate more ambitious cooperation accords between the EC, Yugoslavia, and Romania (which Giscard is visiting Jan. 17) and also undertake talks with Comecon.
- 5) Set up economic development and energy plans for Europe.

Toward the Third World

With the ushering in of the EMS, the French have been taking responsibility for Third World stability and development. Following the visit of the Iraqi Vice President Maarouf to Paris to discuss cooperation between Europe and the Arab world, the French began to focus upon Latin America as a desirable and necessary European ally. Giscard d'Estaing is now preparing his official visit to Mexico in February which is intended to renew the French tradition of republican alliances for progress with that leading Latin American country.

On Jan. 12, Francois-Poncet was the guest of honor at a dinner given by all the Latin American ambassadors to Paris. Francois-Poncet stressed that what had to be done was to "expand the complementarity between the countries of Europe and Latin America" through European industry and science participation in the "rapid economic expansion" and "development of the natural resources" of that continent.

Even the traditionally conservative and timorous French businessmen's union has joined the movement, calling its members to face the "new industrial adventure." Association leader Ceyrac told a national congress of the organization that the two challenges of the future are the emerging industrialization of the Third World and the need to develop the most advanced technologies at home, like electronics and computers.

Looking into the future

In the minds of the architects of the European Monetary System, planning for future generations, for the world's entry into the third millennium — a constant reference in Giscard and Schmidt's speeches — is the only true way to secure the world against the danger that the U.S. Administration will blunder into a nuclear war with the Soviet Union through British manipulations of the White House.

— *Garance Upham*

France and Germany: Global diplomacy for peace and progress

Especially since the institutionalization of the European Monetary System on Jan. 2, French President Giscard and West German Chancellor Schmidt have been dispatching their diplomats and government officials on a round of meetings, talks, and dinners with their counterparts in the advanced sector, the Third World, and the East bloc. The topic: peace and development for the world.

Jan. 9

Iraqi Vice President Maarouf arrives in Paris for three days of talks with French government officials on cooperation between Europe and the Arab World to ensure the stability of the Middle East.

Jan. 16

French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet addresses a dinner of Latin American Ambassadors to France proposing to expand the relations between the countries of Europe and Latin America through Europe's industrial and scientific participation in the economic development of Latin America.

Jan. 15

French Foreign Ministry disarmament specialist Jacques de la Ferriere is dispatched to Moscow for talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko and others on the proposed "Atlantic to the Urals" disarmament conference.

West German Minister of Inter-German Affairs Wischniewski meets with East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fisher on developing relations and upgrading diplomatic representation to ambassadorial status.

Jan. 16

European Community's Foreign Ministers meet under French leadership to further organize the EMS. Britain's David Owen told not to interfere.

Jan. 17

French President Giscard begins visit to Romania, a potential point of destabilization against the East bloc.

February

French President Giscard to visit Mexico to further French diplomatic and economic relations with that leading Latin American nation.