

The British Empire challenged

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, addressing 60,000 people in a mass outdoor rally in Alsace on May 15, outlined the Franco-German battle for a Europe of peace in this region that so often in the past was the cockpit of bitter rivalries between the two countries. Posing himself as a true successor to Charles de Gaulle, the French leader reminded his audience of the divided Europe of quarreling states that prevailed a century ago, when the British Empire ruled the world unchallenged.

Great Britain did its best to prevent the construction of Europe, Giscard said in his speech. Today, living standards in the U.K. are 40 percent lower than those in France. "Europe means peace!" said Giscard. And, he might well have added, "Britain means war!"

The leading British intelligence circles that installed Margaret Thatcher in 10 Downing Street have defined the issue in exactly that way. Their Thatcher government project is intended to impose fascism on Britain, cutting the dismal living standards Giscard decried still further. Concomitantly, they are gearing up a small sector of the British economy—war related industry—for confrontation with the Soviet Union.

Through such figures as Canada's Joe Clark, the Kennedy-Haig duo in the United States, and the continental European constellation of Hapsburg circles and the Socialist International, this highly radioactive British package will be exported to the entire West. The scenario for dumping Carter and installing Gen. Haig as his successor has already been broadcast by London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Around Giscard, however, an alliance has begun to form among key Arab forces, the Western Europeans and the Soviets that is posing an alternative to the British imperial policies, on precisely the issues of high technology energy development and East-West collaboration for peace that the Thatcher project is targeted to sabotage. Most promising is the fact that these European-led moves are occurring at the same time that a real anti-British fight is shaping in the United States.

In the days preceding his Alsace address, Giscard announced that the next phase of implementation of the European Monetary System would be enacted through an aggressive energy cooperation plan with Arab oil producer states. Giscard's statement coincided with the arrival of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd in Paris and the announcement by Fahd that France and Saudi Arabia would work together to stop the oil speculators.

Moreover, the French are making independent deals with the Saudis despite the fact that the latter—protesting Washington's Camp David war pact—have just pulled the plug on a big Western-financed mu-

nitions factory in Egypt.

Even West Germany's embattled Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has joined this renewed detente-through-development drive, which includes plans for a European-wide disarmament conference and a European-wide energy conference, spanning East and West.

The question is what will happen in Washington. Western Europe can have an important effect in driving a wedge between the United States and Maggie Thatcher's Britain if its leaders link up with anti-British ferment in the United States. The battle against the takeover of U.S. banking by London's "Dope, Inc." drug-running cartel, detailed in our cover story, and the moves to bring the powerful Teamsters union (see U.S. REPORT) behind the American presidential candidacy of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.—who has just returned from Western Europe—are the strongest signs of Europe's potential allies here.

The "British Empire's" war drive has never been more open; the moment for defeating it could hardly be more propitious.

—Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

Over 20 local leaders of the powerful **Swedish metalworkers union** have revolted against the antinuclear policies of Willy Brandt's **Socialist International**, represented in Sweden by the head of the Socialist Labor Party (SAP) and former Prime Minister, Olof Palme.

On May 16, the revolt broke the **front pages** of all of Sweden's **major newspapers**—including the *Afton-*

bladet of Palme's own SAP. The trade unionists' petition **attacks Palme for repudiating nuclear energy** development after the Harrisburg, Pa. nuclear "mishap" and calls instead for a national **information campaign** on "the great possibilities of nuclear energy." "**Nuclear power** has the full capacity to meet the increasing demands for an abundance of **cheap, clean and secure energy** for