



The direction of French Policy

With Laurent Murawiec's report on the "New Right" phenomenon, *Executive Intelligence Review* begins a series of articles which will explore in depth the policy battle that is now taking place in France. The outcome of this debate will have a determining effect on world developments and on the U.S. political scene over the months to come.

As the article printed below demonstrates, one side of the debate in France has been monopolized by British liberalism. In the classic fashion of British ideological warfare since the period of the French Revolution, the British doctrine has gained more than a substantial toehold on both the "Left" and the "Right." The opposite side, which is explicitly identified by both the liberal "New Left" and "New Right" as their real enemy, is the tradition of urban-centered industrial progress known over the past two centuries as the American System and often referred to in France as "dirigism," or political coordination of economic policies so as to ensure such progress.

In this series, *Executive Intelligence Review* will bring to light the little-known fact that a humanist faction of political economists and statesmen in France, reaching back in history to the 17th century minister Colbert and his Renaissance antecedents, influenced the emergence of the American System in a decisive way. This tradition formed the basis for the French-American alliance that won the young United States' revolutionary struggle against the British Empire in the 18th century. Moreover, it was carried well into the 19th century through the work of the great Monge, Carnot, Chaptal and Dupin, whose writings and teachings, virtually unobtainable today even in France, educated the young Friedrich List.

In turn, it is to List that the industrial-capitalist city-building faction in Europe—the social base for the "Grand Design" policy of French President Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt—owes its existence. The French background to List will be detailed in this review's publication of the studies of Jacques Cheminade that were recently presented at a Frankfurt EIR seminar on the 190th anniversary of Friedrich List's birth.

This fall presents a signal inflection point for French policy. Over the first half of 1979, the government of France took the lead in an independent "Gaullist" foreign policy for Western Europe, resisting the pressures from London and Washington for a war buildup against the Soviet Union. Beginning with Giscard's summit with Brezhnev in Moscow in April, France moved decisively to stem the tide toward a world war by setting up unprecedentedly close ties with the Soviet leadership.

Simultaneously, moving beyond the Francophone sphere of former French colonies, the Giscard government constructed a network of relationships with the underdeveloped sector that has been highlighted by an unwavering commitment to nuclear energy, moral support to the Lopez Portillo government of Mexico in its determination to use its oil wealth to industrialize, and a palpable distance from U.S. policy on such strategic flashpoints as China and the Middle East.

Now that the Nonaligned summit has openly challenged the advanced sector to break with the International Monetary Fund and extend credits to develop the Third World, the chips are down for France to move from words to deeds in the crucial economic area. The theoretical basis for using the projected European Monetary Fund of Giscard and his West German counterpart Helmut Schmidt in precisely this way has been mapped out in the writings of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., writings published in this review and widely diffused among French policymakers. Such a move would vindicate the entire rich, historic tradition of the French "Grand Design" from Colbert through List and down to the present.