

than Jean Pozzo di Borgo, also known as the Socialist Party's man on the island. The same source reported that Gaston Defferre's closest associate in Corsica, one Bastien Lecia, is often seen with Pozzo di Borgo.

But these strange connections date back even farther. The key links between the SAC mafia and Defferre are through the top mobster family of Jean and Dominique Venturi. According to published FBI reports, and to other sources referred to by Alain Jaubert in his book "*D*" *comme drogue* ("*D*" *As In Drugs*), the Venturi brothers have been highly important operatives in the international drug trade for decades. In the years following World War II, Dominique Venturi collaborated with Francisci to organize the Mediterranean drug trade for Joe Renucci, a lieutenant of Lucky Luciano. Renucci's second-in-command, Gabriel Graziani, is known to have been in personal contact with top mobster Carmine Galante, a close collaborator of Joseph Bonnano and Lucky Luciano. Jean Venturi settled down in Canada, where he organized the receiving networks for the dope traffic into North America. Venturi functioned in Canada under cover of his position as official representative of the firm Pastis Ricard, directly under the supervision of SAC vice-president Charles Pasqua, then head of Pastis Ricard's overseas operations.

The Lucet affair

The Venturis were also good friends of Gaston Defferre. The Venturis became notorious for rendering services to Defferre when he was the Socialist Mayor of Marseilles, and this collaboration is ongoing, as was revealed during one of the major scandals to yet hit the Mitterrand administration: the Lucet affair.

In March 1982 Raymond Lucet, the head of the state-owned security company Bouches du Rhone based in Marseilles, was found dead in his villa, apparently a suicide. Investigations revealed that Lucet had used his position to conduct major financial warfare against certain Socialist Party factions centered around National Solidarity Minister Nicole Questiaux, Socialist Party First Secretary Michel Pezet, and the left trade unions CGT and CFDT. The issue of the fight was whether Mutuelle des Travailleurs, the social security company controlled by the factions above, or the RPR controlled Société Mutuelle des Bouches du Rhone, would receive a subcontract from Lucet's company. At stake were a few tens of millions of francs. Lucet, who was close to the RPR, decided to hand them the contract.

But there is more to the story. The Paris daily *Le Monde* revealed that Raymond Lucet had engaged in lucrative business ventures with a Marseilles firm by the name of Cooperative d'Enterprise Generale du Midi. Further investigations revealed that this company includes among its administrators Dominique Venturi.

Mitterrand's policy scorecard reviewed

by Garance Upham Phau

One year after taking office, François Mitterrand has been forced to slow, or outright cancel, the radical projects for reorganizing the French economy he put forth during the presidential campaign. The strong popular pressure that came into play to restrain the government is likely to intensify: in January, four by-elections were won by the opposition; in March, local cantonal elections produced a landslide for the opposition. On May 10 polls published by the Paris newspaper *Le Monde*, a pro-Socialist daily, showed Mitterrand commanding only 40 percent of the electorate, with a paltry 20 percent still supporting his economic program.

Popular disenchantment with the Socialist regime has led to friction between the government's ministers, who are forced to listen to constituents, and the ideologues of the Socialist Party, who want to carry out the original disruptive and actually fascist de-urbanization plans put forward during the campaign. Prime Minister Mauroy is being attacked by both the party ideologues and the free-enterprise business circles for being too lenient on labor. There is talk of his replacement by either Economics and Finance Minister Jacques Delors, or party Chief Lionel Jospin, who recently toured the United States in search of patronage. It is doubtful, however, that even should Delors or Jospin replace Mauroy either one would do better, for it is not good will that is restraining the Prime Minister from carrying out the full Socialist program, but an increasingly angry French population. A conference of so-called French experts, sponsored by the Maison Francaise club at New York City's Columbia University on April 28 and 29, was dominated by grumbling and growling on the failures of the Mitterrand regime to deliver on its electoral promises. Mitterrand's track record can be summarized as follows.

Industrial policy

Of all of Mitterrand's campaign trail promises, he has most fully implemented his pledge to nationalize all of France's major industrial and banking concerns. One of Mitterrand's first actions in office was to nationalize, with compensation from the tax-payers' pockets, virtually all of France's steel, electronics, and construction sectors, all of aluminum and chemical production, half of glass and computer production, and a good portion

of the pharmaceutical industry. But unlike the de Gaulle administration, which nationalized a number of French concerns following World War II, the Mitterrand administration has no industrial policy to speak of.

The London *Financial Times* pointed out May 9 that Mitterrand's economic policy was premised on the general "economic recovery" in the Western world predicted by the experts. That recovery, of course, has failed to materialize. In the midst of continued world economic downturn, the inflationary budgetary and social measures of the Socialist administration have left France with over 10 percent inflation and 2 million unemployed. Also a failure was Mitterrand's campaign to shut down nuclear power plant construction throughout France (see article, page 30). This was, no doubt, one of the major issues on the mind of French expert and Harvard Professor Stanley Hoffman, as he loudly complained at the recent Columbia University conference that Mitterrand's campaign to return France to a "pre-industrial, pastoral society" seems to have been set aside, in favor of "capitalism with a few reforms."

Decentralization

The Socialist promise for administrative decentralization of France was the cornerstone of Mitterrand's electoral program. Decentralization was to be a tool to break the strong institutions of de Gaulle's Fifth Republic, and deurbanize France, by abolishing the traditional prefect system and turning power over to competing regional entities. Today, however, the administration has come to doubt the virtues of decentralization, and some of the most radical aspects of the reform, such as proportional representation, are being junked. By giving control over major policy decisions to local and regional officials—even Socialist ones—the government handed its opposition a very strong means of expression. Reversal of Socialist policy on nuclear plant construction is a prime example.

Labor policy

Mitterrand has initiated the labor-sharing and youth-employment schemes he touted during his campaign, but these are little more than band-aides for the severe economic crisis, and are very similar to those applied by the former Prime Minister Raymond Barre. Unemployment continues to worsen from month to month, and business confidence is at a very low ebb.

The administration has yet to carry out the destructive anti-labor policies for which it was put into power by the French oligarchical interests. Complete labor-sharing would mean workers laboring for 40 hours to earn 35 hours pay, according to an official in the Mauroy cabinet. That official also mentioned the dismantling of the national health care system, one of the best in the Western world. Other Socialist proposals

emphasize the need to institute plant-by-plant bargaining.

Foreign policy

Mitterrand pledged to end his predecessor Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's ambitious foreign policy, which placed France in a partnership with West Germany to create a "superpower for peace" capable of exerting a stabilizing influence in the Third World, in East-West relations, and in key hot spots such as the Middle East.

That pledge Mitterrand carried out. Nowadays, French intervention in world affairs is of the British variety, for destabilization and looting purposes only. Anglophilic Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, one of the authors of the Lomé Convention for raw materials looting of developing countries, has given complete support to British imperial aggressions in the Malvinas. Insiders say that in exchange Britain had promised to drop some of its opposition to French claims in negotiations concerning EC agricultural pricing and production policies. Although the British did not keep this promise, the French administration is hobnobbing with the British royal household more than ever. The Queen Mother was in France on May 10 to visit with Mitterrand, and as of early May, both Mitterrand and Mauroy are scheduled to visit the British Isles.

In fact, there are no major policy disagreements between the British imperialists and the French empire faction that put Mitterrand into power. There is a relationship that can best be described as a division of labor. As the British are busy in the South Atlantic, the Mitterrand regime is busy developing what may in the future prove useful contacts with the East bloc. Foreign Minister Cheysson was just in Bulgaria, and Mitterrand, who just received Cuba's number-two man Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, is about to go to Hungary. A well-informed source at the Council on Foreign Relations recently referred to more unreported contacts with the East bloc.

Only in the Middle East has the Mitterrand regime apparently pursued a policy independent of British objectives. On the campaign trail, Mitterrand pledged to restore good relations with Israel, and he traveled there following his election. However, both he and Cheysson have refused to endorse the Israeli extremists' plan to partition Lebanon, and are apparently continuing the policies of Giscardian ambassador to Lebanon Delamar, who was assassinated last fall with the complicity of Syrian terrorists. This has brought down further Syrian terrorist reprisals; the recent Paris bombing that injured 64 people was aimed at France as well as the pro-Iraq newspaper. The French also remain the only major Western supplier of arms to Iraq, still locked in the bloody conflict with the Islamic fundamentalist regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini.