

Editorial

The Gaullist 'bicycle'

It was a scene which the scenario writers of British and Venetian intelligence had obviously not anticipated. There was the Socialist President of France, François Mitterrand, the man whom the London *Economist* and its continental oligarch friends conspired to put into power to wreck the Franco-German alliance, standing in front of the West German parliament and calling for a European "industrial renaissance" as the only way to guarantee peace and relaunch the world economy.

Less than a year ago, Mitterrand was proclaiming his fondness for the environmentalist's paradise of simpler lifestyles. Now, sounding in many passages like the reincarnation of Charles de Gaulle, Mitterrand was pulling the rug from under his nominal West German comrades, the Vogel-Bahr leadership of the Social Democratic opposition party, which is staking its hopes for a return to power on an alliance with the environmentalist Green Party around a conventional-weapons buildup ("peace"), and the dismantling of the nuclear industry.

The day was Jan. 20, 1983; the occasion was the 20th anniversary of the Franco-German Friendship Treaty signed by the late President de Gaulle and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Mitterrand hailed Adenauer as an "exceptional man" who knew how to act at the time of decision. He went on to strongly dissent "in the name of France" from the "peace" game currently being played out between the Andropov regime of the U.S.S.R., the British, and Britain's obsequious servants in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) of occupied West Germany, SPD head Hans-Jochen Vogel and his mentor Egon Bahr. France insists on maintaining its independent nuclear *force de frappe* as a guarantee of its national sovereignty, the French President declared, and believes that "decoupling" Western Europe from the United States on strategic questions, the policy advocated by the German Social Democrats, is "dangerous in itself" and a threat to peace.

Europe must instead turn its attention to the eco-

nomie crisis—with 11 million unemployed already in the Common Market countries. Instead of acting as though "fate" had decided the end of European civilization and accepting inexorable demographic decline, "Europe can engage in an industrial renaissance on the condition that it wants it," Mitterrand said. A strong Europe, centered on the Franco-German alliance, is the "hope" of the Third World, continued the French leader, referring to his just-concluded trip to Africa, and the basis for convincing the United States and Japan of the "need to reconstruct an international monetary order and not leave it to be run by the invisible hand" of the "no longer free" market.

Mitterrand spoke not as the puppet of the Socialist International which put him into power, but as the instrument of the institution de Gaulle created—the Fifth Republic. Just as the man who climbs on a bicycle not of his own making must become a "cyclist" in order to ride the bicycle, Mitterrand as President of France has become a "Gaullist." And as a Gaullist, he gave the most patriotically German speech of recent memory in Bonn, a speech which reminded citizens of the Federal Republic of their world-historical responsibilities.

The reminder, although insufficient in itself, is timely. The visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to Bonn three days before Mitterrand's appearance had no purpose but to heat up the crisis atmosphere in Germany immediately after Chancellor Kohl had announced that parliament would be dissolved for new elections on March 6. Gromyko's Jan. 16-17 visit provided the occasion for chancellor candidate Vogel to deliver his most explicit public threat of a break with the United States over the "Euromissiles" issue.

A Soviet-backed Green-fascist coalition in the Federal Republic under Social Democrat Vogel will demoralize and dessicate the last vestiges of industrial-minded export institutions of the Federal Republic. Socialist Mitterrand, riding the "Gaullist bicycle," may have helped to avert that catastrophe.