

French Fabians try to undercut Mitterrand

by Garance Upham Phau

On Feb. 9, French Minister of Research and Industry Jean-Pierre Chevènement announced the state plans for the nationalized industries. Investment in those sectors shall reach 22 billion francs in 1983 (approximately \$3.5 billion), a 30 percent increase over the 1982 investments of 16 billion francs. Chevènement said that those investments are to be allocated to modernize basic industries (steel, basic chemistry, construction); to help “transformation” industries (auto, refined chemistry, biotechnology); to promote new technologies, notably electronics (140 billion francs—about 23 billion dollars—is scheduled to be spent over five years in this area).

Since French President Mitterrand has turned away from the Socialist Party policy of destruction he was committed to carrying out at the time of his election last year, the party and the government have been the scene of intense factional warfare. Lately, since Mitterrand toured Africa with promises of nuclear deals, his Socialist opposition has come out in the open, to the point of sabotaging government initiatives and helping out opposition conservative parties’ chances in the upcoming elections.

This Socialist opposition, corporatist and Malthusian, poses the danger of a “new fascism,” said Jacques Cheminade, general secretary of the European Labor Party (POE), in a public statement on Feb. 12. The POE shares the philosophical outlook and excellent record in economic matters of *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

As Cheminade outlined, the core of plotters against the French president is made up of the leader of the Socialist-dominated trade-union federation CFDT, Edmond Maire, Finance Minister Jacques Delors, and Planning Minister Michel Rocard along with the recently fired Cooperation Minister Jean-Pierre Cot.

The intent to undermine the government was made public when Edmond Maire, the French equivalent of Lane Kirkland, emerged from a routine visit to President Mitterrand and, on the footsteps of the Elysée Palace, announced that

the Socialists would implement a tight austerity policy following the March 6 municipal elections. This announcement was seen by everyone in France as an extraordinary provocation intended to deliver the elections to the conservative opposition parties. It is certain that no such plans exist, except in the mind of Delors, who has been consistently rebuked by Prime Minister Mauroy on this issue. Maire was denounced as a liar by associates of Mitterrand.

The French E. T.

The nature of the beast became apparent when Planning Minister Michel Rocard reared his ugly head (he looks like E. T. with a modicum of plastic surgery) in an interview published in the Feb. 4-17 prestigious French Business weekly *L’Expansion*. Rocard fully endorsed Maire’s statement, praising him for his boldness. Rocard was not-so-subtly putting himself forward as able to do a better job than Mitterrand, and he put forth a futuristic vision of a society in which unions would help manage decreasing standards of living!

Cheminade especially warned that Rocard’s advocacy of corporatist planning was reminiscent of war-time practices of General Petain. “Socialism thus conceived comes down to saying that the exploitation of the workers shall be the work of the workers themselves,” said Cheminade, and “one should pay more attention to that part of Rocard’s interview where he considers that the ‘big vertical structures’ [the state, the administration, business and labor organizations, and churches—ed.] are so ‘archaic’ they would no longer be adapted to the modern world. If you put that together with his commentary on the ‘sociological disqualification of those who are too dependent on the big structures,’ what appears behind the mumbo jumbo? A leader ‘not dependent’ on constituencies who relies on non-vertical organizations (that means horizontal or corporatist), in a period of economic depression. Is there a better definition of Hitler or Mussolini?” Cheminade concludes: “We are faced with a new fascism, born as the preceding ones upon the ruins and suffering of a depression.”

The roots of the quadrumvirate

Each member of this foursome is intimately associated with the fascist policies of the Club of Rome, the International Monetary Fund, and those self-proclaimed adepts of “futurism”—a euphemism for plain old fascism.

Maire calls every so often for the dismantling of modern industrial “capitalist” society and a return to a “simpler” society where all nuclear energy facilities would be shut down and workers would “self-manage” small shops in the countryside. This he does quite regularly in the pages of the Major French daily *Le Monde*.

Jacques Delors, the present finance minister, is probably the biggest thorn in Mitterrand’s side. Delors, to put it succinctly, is on record as advocating greater powers for the IMF over developing nations as well as over the French economy

itself. He advocates harsh austerity for France and, having come increasingly under attack by the Mitterrandists, is now threatening to resign should he be unable to carry out his plan after the March elections. Delors is a long-time associate of Maire, with whom he had helped build the CFDT out of the old "Solidarist" Catholic union, the CFTC. Moreover, Delors is associated with the French "Futuribles" movement built by old-time Mussolini associate Bertrand de Jouvenel, the person the international futurist movement credits with having created the Club of Rome!

Michel Rocard, the ambitious planning minister, has long been known as the head of the anti-Mitterrand faction in the Socialist Party. He is the darling of the DSOC (Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee) crowd here, a French Jimmy Carter, with more teeth and an iron grip. Rocard is the hope of Michael Ledeen, the former State Department European "expert" now at Georgetown's CSIS, who has been linked to the Nazi International in the Italian P-2 investigation. Ledeen is an expert on and associate of the futurist movement for which, he has stated in his books, he carries hopes for a new fascism, stripped of the "nationalist and bureaucratic" content which he says hindered the Mussolinian revolution. Rocard and Delors are the favorites of right-wing French business circles who want the Communist Party out of government and a muzzling of the unions, especially the powerful Communist-run CGT federation.

Jean-Pierre Cot wrote in the Feb. 8 *Le Monde* that the Socialist Party should further distance itself from the presidency, and warned Mitterrand that, unlike previous Gaullist administrations, the President's power is not independent on the party apparatus. This is rather wishful thinking on the part of Cot, but is also a clear threat against Mitterrand's government, especially as Cot went on to examine how, in other countries, social democratic parties have, at times, brought down socialist governments, such as Helmut Schmidt's in West Germany.

Jean-Pierre Cot was fired this fall, after his involvement in a "human rights" campaign in Africa to subvert Mitterrand's policy in the region. Cot is a close friend of agronomist René Dumont, a top Club of Rome asset who has spent the past 30 years trying to undermine developing countries in North Africa (he was thrown out of Algeria), in Asia (he was expelled from Vietnam) and in Latin America. Dumont's latest book, a study of Africa, sees no hope for the continent unless the "selfish" city-based African elites are eliminated, and the natives expelled from the cities, Pol Pot-style.

Cheminade: 'The path to slavery'

"It is our conviction that those plotters must be stopped today, for we defend the present policy of the President of the Republic from that same standpoint from which we have attacked Mitterrand in the past, when his actions, along with those of Delors, Rocard, and Maire, were indeed very questionable," explained POE leader Cheminade.

Spain blackmailed by the State Department

by Katherine Kanter in Paris

EIR Paris Bureau Chief Katherine Kanter recently returned from several weeks in Spain

In Mainz, West Germany, on Oct. 29, 1982, the day after the Spanish Socialist Party's landslide electoral victory, *EIR* Contributing Editor Lyndon H. LaRouche stated that the new government was on a six-month lifeline, during which outside forces in East and West would help provoke a military takeover under conditions of internal chaos. In Madrid, during public and private mid-December meetings, LaRouche reiterated that the only way for Spain to climb out of its open coffin was to become an international spokesman for the Operation Juárez debt-cartel perspective and reorganization of the world monetary system to eliminate the IMF.

If the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) government, backed by truly patriotic elements in the present opposition, were to adopt publicly and vociferously such a courageous policy as Felipe González intimated in his interview to Radio Caracol of Colombia in January, the potential impact among Ibero-American nations, where Spain carries a unique moral authority, could trip the balance toward the realization of a New World Economic Order.

However, in mid-January senior government officials expressed to this correspondent extreme doubt and fear concerning what they see as the "limited sovereignty" of Spain due to "geographical peculiarities" (translated as U.S. military bases), the NATO problem, and what was explicitly described as "the heavy hand of the U.S. State Department." These constraints, *EIR* was told, might go so far as to prevent the government from participating in any fashion in the New Delhi Non-Aligned summit in early March, just as flagrant intervention by the State Department yanked Spanish representatives at the pre-summit meeting in Managua, Nicaragua on Jan. 10-16 back from supporting the Mexican proposal for mediating the Central American conflict. While the Madrid government looks toward alignment with partisans of industrial development in Ibero-America, it faces continued challenges at home, centered around Basque terrorism.

Kissinger and Shultz

In 1973, Henry Kissinger made it clear to Prime Minister Carrero Blanco, that the wages for opposing State Depart-