

De Gaulle heir calls for strategic defense

by Garance Upham Phau

Speaking at an electoral meeting of the Gaullist party in La Chesnay, Versailles, March 15, Gen. Alain de Boissieu put forth a defense strategy for Western Europe similar to that developed by Lyndon H. LaRouche.

De Boissieu, probably the best-known general in France, is the son-in-law of the late President Charles de Gaulle. He stated that a comprehensive defense strategy for Western Europe must involve development of beam weapons and repudiation of the McNamara flexible response doctrine. Such policies would not be realized, he said, with Dr. Henry Kissinger, "that dangerous man," in power.

The general made public on this occasion his decision to join the France et son Armée (France and Her Army) committee created by associates and friends of LaRouche in France and headed by Jacques Cheminade, secretary-general of the European Labor Party in France. The aim of the committee, which is holding a conference on beam weapons in Paris March 23-24, is to secure joint work between Europe and the United States in developing beam weapons.

"Jacques Cheminade has very sound ideas on national defense, which I endorse completely, as I endorse the call of the France et son Armée committee" said General de Boissieu, as he waved the conference invitation. "Unfortunately I will not be able to attend but I invite you all to do so."

Deterrence through defense

Western European defense "does not start on the Rhine but at the Iron Curtain," said the general, who outlined the means and strategy necessary for securing the continent. He explained how his father-in-law, de Gaulle, developed the *force de frappe* missile arsenal in order to remedy the insanity of the "Mutually Assured Destruction" and "Flexible Response" doctrines imposed by "utopians" such as former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and Henry Kissinger. Thanks to de Gaulle we have had "40 years of peace" in Europe, he said. "Now, deterrence through defense will replace deterrence through attack and nuclear terror," thanks to President Reagan's March 23, 1983 announcement of a U.S. commitment to build beam weapons.

General de Boissieu optimistically said he believes that Reagan would carry out his beam-weapons promise with the "young men around him" and not with Kissinger. "I think

that Reagan knows that this man is dangerous."

He called for a large-scale effort in Western Europe to build defensive systems, and proposed that neutral countries such as Sweden or Switzerland could join in the effort. He also cited Col. Marc Geneste's article in the French military monthly *Défense Nationale*; Colonel Geneste, a member of France et son Armée, is known worldwide as the most outspoken advocate of the neutron bomb as a key component of a European defense.

Boissieu also cited French deputy Jean Brocard, who posed a parliamentary question about beam weapons last year to Defense Minister Charles Hernu. At the time Hernu volunteered the information that France was indeed interested in those weapons. Since then President Mitterrand has endorsed beam-weapons development, which he had initially condemned last spring.

The General then commended Cheminade and his party's *Nouvelle Solidarité* for their "sound ideas" on defense.

In response to a question from the audience about the ewunification of Germany, the general replied: "Have no illusions, the Soviets want West Germany and they will not give East Germany to the West."

At that point a Gaullist on the podium, M. de Vernejoul, intervened to say that one of the panels in the March 23 beam conference was going to "develop an interesting question in that regard"—"the Nazi-Communist collaboration in subversion of the West."

The type of defense under discussion, commented a Gaullist, M. Borotra, is not going to be implemented in the present economic depression. The beam-weapons program must be fought for together with the fight for a program of economic recovery and growth.

LaRouche versus Kissinger

The Gaullist party of France is now sharply divided on the LaRouche-versus-Kissinger question. On March 15, well-informed Gaullist sources reported that Kissinger had telephoned a Gaullist leader and said, "LaRouche and Cheminade are persons I hate; I think, at least politically, they should be shot" (*des personnes à abattre*). This was understood as a direct threat on the eve of the beam conference, at which both LaRouche and Cheminade were scheduled speakers.

On the Kissinger line is the defense adviser of the Gaullist Club 89, Aurillac, who makes the obscene contention that LaRouche is linked to the KGB because to advocate beam weapons is to leave Europe unprotected. By this reasoning, of course, Ronald Reagan would also be suspect. Aurillac has been an adviser to the Polish Prince Michel Poniatowski, the interior minister under the Giscard d'Estaing presidency. Prince Ponia, as he is called, publicly peddles the Kissinger policy: tear down advanced-sector industry, and savagely reduce population in the developing sector.