

Land-based build-up

Fifteen programs are provided for in the conventional weapons realm. By the end of the century, air cover forces (Mirage III and V, and the Jaguar) will be replaced by the Mirage 2000-DA and by the Rafael tactical and naval combat plane. The defense bill also provides for the purchase of three AWACS radar planes for detection purposes.

The land-based component of French conventional forces will also be broadly strengthened, to confront the Warsaw Pact's enormous conventional capabilities. Speaking on this subject on behalf of the National Assembly's Finance Commission, Yves Guena said: "In the domain of land-based weapons, the program aims to prepare the battle corps . . . necessary in order to confront the threat which will become concretized in the European theater around 1995."

In order to do this, a combat helicopter with the firepower of a tank, but much greater mobility, will be built through Franco-German cooperation. Parallel to this, anti-tank weapons and surface-to-air systems will be modernized.

The national Navy will be the recipient of seven new programs, of which the most important will be the production of a nuclear aircraft carrier, with reinforced protection of surface-to-air missiles.

In addition, a third, specific budget will be for the first time dedicated specifically to the domain of space, comprising an average of 2% of the overall defense budget. Two programs are projected in this area: the Helios observation satellite, and the Syracuse-II telecommunication satellite. No specific information has been made available on the remaining third of the allocations for this area.

Need for a 'space shield'

Finally, the French program urges the construction of a European anti-ballistic system, to be built in cooperation with NATO. This would be a system resembling the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The need for this was motivated in an "advisory" appended to the new defense bill by the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission.

Authored by parliamentary deputy Jacques Godfrain, a member of the ruling Rassemblement pour la République (RPR) party, the "advisory" says:

Technological evolution . . . can be destabilizing if one pays no attention to it, and if one fails to dedicate sufficient resources for the modernization of our defense potential. Thus, the creation of a space shield, in its final phase . . . could make questionable the very premises of deterrence.

Godfrain, later in the text, suggests: "But will it not be necessary to go further, and initiate now a space-based defense project inspired by the American SDI? Ought not France take an historic initiative in Europe in this domain, consequently enabling it to direct an ambitious European cooperation in the areas of defense and security?"

A French Military View

'National neutralism' gains in Germany

Parts of the French defense community are increasingly expressing their concern over the growth of "national-neutralist" tendencies in the Federal Republic of Germany (F.R.G.). These same circles have been most energetic in denouncing the so-called "zero option," knowing that it would lead to the de facto neutralization of all of continental Western Europe. This has been made clear by Premier Chirac's comments at the Western European Union meeting a few months ago, and more recently, by the statements of Defense Minister Giraud and RPR leader Godfrain (see article, preceding page).

The excerpts below are translated from an article on the Jan. 25 general elections in West Germany by Prof. François-Georges Dreyfus, published in the April 1987 issue of the official monthly of the French Defense Ministry, Defense nationale. The article is characterized by the review as "most useful" given that the results of the elections, marked by the "definite rise" of "national-neutralism," notably with the gains made by the Greens, "must prompt us to seriously think about their future possible consequences." Professor Dreyfus, an expert in West German affairs who heads the Institute of Higher European Studies in Strasbourg, endorsed the creation in France in 1981 of the National Committee for Nuclear Energy sponsored by the Fusion Energy Foundation.

For EIR's news coverage of the elections, see Vol. 14, No. 6, Feb. 6, 1987, page 42; and Vol. 14, No. 7, Feb. 13, 1987, page 46.

. . . As for the Greens, they have progressed by virtue of what we have called the development of the "German evil." The German people has always granted a large place to the problems of nature. This is probably linked to climatic conditions (one finds this indeed in all northern countries, Finland, the Scandinavian countries, Great Britain, and the Benelux). It is also linked to the influence of Protestant thought of which one movement, pietism, has played an essential part

in the development of the rediscovery of the sentiment of nature and which gave birth in the middle of the 18th century of the "Sturm und Drang," the immediate ancestor of Romanticism. . . .

Since about 20 years ago, the defense of nature in the F.R.G. has drifted toward an often absurd struggle against nuclear energy, economic growth, technological progress. The Greens in Germany, joining the anthroposophic thought often opposed to economic progress, tend to have for a goal—as the great socialist academic Löwenthal reminded us seven years ago in the theoretical publication of the Social Democratic Party, *Neue Gesellschaft*—the industrial decline of the F.R.G. and, consequently, of Europe. Moreover, such a violently anti-nuclear attitude has not only slowed down expansion, but has accelerated the pacifist process in the F.R.G. and favored the development of national-neutralism. . . .

Greens' anti-democratic attitudes

The Green voters have priorities different from the rest of the population, notably on the economic level. Their environmentalism leads them to reject economic growth and this comes out quite clearly in their lifestyle, whether they are forced to have such a lifestyle, or whether they simply prefer to live differently. Their representation of the role of the State is more radically "democratic," but this leads them easily toward anti-democratic attitudes, for example, when they call into question the representative system. Very close followers of Rousseau in this respect, they often remind one of those whom the Israeli historian J.L. Talmon calls the forerunners of the "totalitarian democracy": explains the persistence within the party of some neo-Nazi tendencies. . . .

By national-neutralism, we mean any movement which, in the name of the search for German identity, wishes for the possibilities of rapprochement between the two German States to be explored at a maximum, even if it means to admit the neutralization of the German territory, its demilitarization, its denuclearization, even if it means to break the moorings which tie the F.R.G. to the community of Europe. Such are the themes which have been developed by the Greens throughout the campaign, but one finds them nearly as continuously in the left wing of the SPD (with Eppler, Lafontaine, and even Brandt), as well as among some Free Democratic Party members.

It is probably in the name of national-neutralism, which forbids any attack against Moscow and its satellites, that periodicals, notably *Der Spiegel*, have led a campaign against Chancellor Kohl. The latter had the misfortune of uttering "scandalous" words in the eyes of the national-neutralists: He dared put Gorbachov and Goebbels on the same footing! Of course, it is a scandal, except if one recalls that each of them has learned the same methods from the same master, Lenin; it sufficed to read again Goebbels' texts to the greatest glory of the Communist party of U.S.S.R. in the *National-*

sozialistische Briefe of November and December 1925, or his speech in Königsberg on Jan. 19, 1926. Nazi propaganda largely followed the methods of "Agit-Prop," when it did not purely and simply copy them. This is what two French philosophers, M. Mauss and E. Halévy, from this Mecca of left intellectuals which the Sociology College was, underlined as early as 1936. The former said (addressing the latter): "Your deduction of the Italian and German tyrannies from bolshevism is perfectly correct," and he very directly put into question "the pernicious influence of Georges Sorel." This text is all the more important in that over the past 10 months, a debate of political-historical import is taking place in the F.R.G.:

(who teaches in Cologne), or Michael Stürmer (who teaches in Erlangen), have shown that it is necessary to link Nazism and bolshevism. . . .

Next to the Greens, one can note an important national-neutralist upsurge within the SPD, and it is significant that this theme has largely dominated the last electoral campaign. . . . This is why one can nearly wonder whether the Jan. 25 elections have not been, to a certain extent, a victory of the national-neutralists, since the SPD and the Greens together eventually scored 45.3% of the vote.

If we do not watch out, a fearsome deadline could come up in four years, with the elections of January 1991.

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