

Report from Paris by Christine Schier

A chance to vote for nation-states

The 'Rassemblement pour une France libre' joins the race for the European parliamentary elections.

In the European parliamentary elections scheduled for June 18, French voters will have an opportunity to vote for what Charles de Gaulle used to call a Europe of the fatherlands, by voting for candidates of the Rassemblement pour une France Libre (RFL: Movement for a Free France). On May 23, at a crowded press conference in Metz, Jacques Cheminade made public the slate of 81 candidates he will be heading under the banner of the RFL.

What little is left of the heritage of de Gaulle is rallying to the RFL and its program for "a Europe of great frontiers." The name of the movement created by Cheminade, secretary general of the European Labor Party (POE) and collaborator of Lyndon LaRouche, recalls the battle of the Free French during World War II. And it has a special importance in light of present attempts to destroy national sovereignty.

Of the dozen or so slates running in the June 18 elections, the RFL is the only one demanding the abrogation of the Single European Act, which would lead to the dissolution of Europe's nation-states, allowing them to be dominated by the Soviet Union. The Communist Party claims to oppose the Act, but its actions are pure demagoguery, as are those of the National Front of Jean Marie Le Pen.

The Green Party, headed by Antoine Waechter, is playing on public criticism of the act, but does not consider changing the act, much less reversing it. As for the major parties, Socialist or Opposition, they are all vying to become the "most European

of all." And what remains of the Gaullist party has joined ranks with Trilateral Commission crony Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The RFL slate has many farmers, including in the 6th, 8th, and 9th positions. These farmer-candidates have all taken up the issue of the insane quota system imposed by the European Community. One candidate, Mme. Lemerrier, became a kind of *cause célèbre* in France a few months ago, when she threw herself at the feet of President François Mitterrand, to demand that he intervene against unjust seizures of indebted farms. She is expected to conduct a very active campaign.

Also running on the RFL slate are six local elected officials from rural localities. Only two days after the campaign was officially announced, the RFL seemed ready to create a furor on the political scene. In the legislative elections in June 1988, the RFL's predecessor, the POE, had made headlines by becoming the fifth party of France, and the only one not represented in Parliament to present over 75 candidates nationwide. In less than one year, the POE and RFL have grown to the point where breakout is likely over the coming weeks.

In the Lorraine area, the RFL is particularly strong. At a press conference in Metz, Mr. Maurer, the mayor of Mousson, a small village, and an English teacher at the university at Nancy, announced campaign events that include weekly meetings, distribution of campaign literature and putting up posters, as well as classical

music concerts. In fact, the musical world is well represented on the RFL slate.

Eliane Magnan, an accomplished cellist who recently recorded all the Bach Cello Suites on compact disk, is number four on the RFL list; a well-known baritone, François Loup, will make the reform of musical education a part of his campaign. And at other campaign meetings, Anne Marie Dunant, a soprano from the Strasbourg Opera, and pianist Jacques Moreau, will perform concerts dedicated to U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche. The RFL will also make scientific tuning at C=256 hertz an issue in the campaign.

From the south of France, the treasurer of the Support Committee for the Polish trade union Solidarity, Mathis Bortner, is number five on the list. A personal friend of Lech Walesa, Bortner stated that he particularly agrees with the RFL's analysis of the Soviet Union as "the primary danger to our civilization today," and on the fraud of *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

"I was especially happy to read Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for Poland. I think its implementation is absolutely crucial, and the economic benefits of it will be enjoyed by all of Europe." Bortner also wrote a letter to Pope John Paul II, requesting that he take action on the LaRouche case and offering to come to Rome to plead for LaRouche.

The RFL will be coordinating election events with its sister party in West Germany, the Patriots for Germany, headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Lyndon LaRouche's wife. The two parties are committed to ensuring that the "Europe of the Single Act" will not be carried out, and that the entire Western European continent not be swallowed up by the Soviet Union.