

FBI in Paris targeted LaRouche, Cheminade

by Mary Jane Freeman

Foreign government sources used the FBI office in Paris during 1983-85 to target Lyndon LaRouche and his associate Jacques Cheminade, then secretary general of the European Labor Party (POE) in France, according to newly released FBI documents. The FBI files include 56 pages dating from 1982-84, which was the crucial period when LaRouche and Cheminade were holding seminars across Europe to win support for LaRouche's new strategic doctrine, which became known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

The documents came to light under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. While 85% of the documents have been blacked out to withhold "national security" information, some reveal that a "foreign government" source was feeding information on Cheminade to the FBI legal attaché ("Legat") in the U.S. embassy in Paris as a means to instigate a national security investigation against LaRouche. One document reads: "LaRouche is a U.S. citizen [redacted] information on Cheminade [redacted] has been passed to Legat in order to show LaRouche's associates taint him and that he should be the subject of FBI inquiry and investigation."

The Paris FBI Legat proposed that a foreign counterintelligence investigation (FCI) should be opened on LaRouche, but left the final decision to FBI Headquarters. The FBI has no jurisdiction to investigate foreigners on foreign soil; but in this case, they tried to circumvent this by combining the Cheminade investigation with one against LaRouche.

In late August 1993, Cheminade filed an affidavit challenging the FBI's withholding of information, and exposing what was behind this concocted investigation. He stated, "While the President of the [U.S.] had adopted and announced the new strategic policy, there were many forces mounted against the new policy." The affidavit says it was "a grouping within the U.S. government identified with 'Project Democracy' — most notably Walter Raymond, Kenneth de-Graffenreid, and Roy Godson, and the Soviets" who opposed the SDI. Cheminade suggested that some hostile French, Israeli, or Soviet source was utilizing the Paris FBI office to poison the SDI efforts.

Battle over the SDI

A chronology drawn from Cheminade's affidavit shows that at the time he and LaRouche were meeting with European leaders to win support for the new strategic doctrine, the

Paris FBI was going after LaRouche:

November 1982. LaRouche holds meetings on a new military strategy — later known as the SDI — in Paris and Strasbourg with high-level military and political figures.

Feb. 2, 1983. LaRouche speaks at an *EIR* seminar on beam weapon defense in West Germany, attended by East bloc and U.S. diplomatic personnel.

Feb. 3, 1983. Paris FBI requests FBIHQ files on LaRouche.

Feb. 9 and 17, 1983. LaRouche participates in a briefing to the Planning Staff of the German Defense Ministry on beam weapon defense, and then goes to Paris to again meet high-level French political figures.

March 23, 1983. President Reagan announces SDI.

Aug. 10, 1983. The Soviet journal *Literaturnaya Gazeta* publishes article by Fyodor Burlatsky attacking President Reagan's SDI policy as a "*casus belli*."

Sept. 21, 1983. Paris FBI "reopens" investigation of LaRouche and requests information on Cheminade.

Oct. 5, 1983. *EIR* press conference in Bonn on the SDI is addressed by LaRouche, French military leaders, as well as Italian and West German generals.

Oct. 23, 1983. *Literaturnaya Gazeta* publishes an attack on LaRouche and the development of beam weapons.

Nov. 9, 1983. *EIR* and the Fusion Energy Foundation sponsor a beam weapons conference in Rome. Speakers include LaRouche and French, Italian, West German, and U.S. generals.

Nov. 15, 1983. Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* publishes an attack on LaRouche and the Rome beam weapon conference.

Dec. 9, 1983. Paris FBI sends another request to FBIHQ for information on Cheminade.

Dec. 12, 1983. Paris FBI passes information on Cheminade to a foreign agency.

Feb. 23, 1984. Paris FBI asks FBIHQ to expedite its review of its files on Cheminade.

March 12, 1984. *Izvestia* publishes an attack on the "scandalous" links between LaRouche and the Reagan administration.

March 23-24, 1984. LaRouche and Cheminade address a Paris beam weapon defense seminar.

March 26, 1984. FBIHQ asks Paris to explain "the purpose, direction and objectives" in the Cheminade case.

March 28, 1984. *Literaturnaya Gazeta* publishes an attack on the Paris beam weapon conference.

April 2, 1984. Soviet newspaper *Pravda* denounces the Paris beam weapons conference as a "seminar of murderers."

April 5, 1984. Paris FBI replies to FBIHQ's inquiry, citing a 1982 FBI memo which states that LaRouche's "statements and policy positions dovetail nicely with Soviet propaganda and disinformation objectives. . . ."

Throughout the rest of 1984, the Paris FBI disseminated information to foreign sources about Cheminade, and did not close its illegal investigation of him until October 1985.