
Jacques Cheminade

The role for France in global recovery

Cheminade is president of the French political movement Solidarité et Progrès. He has been a political collaborator of Lyndon LaRouche for more than 20 years, and was a candidate in the French Presidential elections in 1995.

While at Buchenwald, on Feb. 23, 1945, [former French Socialist prime minister] Léon Blum wrote, “In a war of ideas, the party that triumphs is the one that inspires peace.” We cannot accept the dilemma which is posed to us repeatedly: Either support the NATO bombings of Kosovo and Yugoslavia and thus accept the terror imposed by the armed hand of the oligarchy; or else, support ethnic cleansing and the first mass deportation in Europe since the end of the last war. Only the Eurasian Land-Bridge and our New Bretton Woods system can allow us a way out of this dilemma through a solution from above, a morally superior logic of peace which defines a common interest. . . .

The real cause of the war raging in the Balkans, must be located in the cultural matrix imposed by the financial oligarchy over the last 30 years leading to the more recent financial collapse. That matrix must be changed, otherwise we will enter into a period of wars similar to that of the Thirty Years’ War or the Hundred Years’ War in Europe. . . .

We French must understand, that the cause of the war is not Iraq, or Yugoslavia, the United States, or even Britain. It is the financial oligarchy of the City of London and Wall Street which has declared war on the people, in Africa, in Russia, and elsewhere, where living standards and life expectancy are collapsing. The leading role in all cases has been played by the British. . . .

A Rooseveltian solution

The way out lies in a Rooseveltian solution, informed by the lessons of the Marshall Plan of 1947. In France, Jean Monnet, the general planning commissioner, took at that time measures similar to those of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Bank for Reconstruction): two-thirds of the francs emitted by the Treasury went to the Fund for Modernizing Equipment to promote investment in the nationalized companies, in the form of matching funds to the Marshall Plan dollars. Of the rest, some went to private or public banks for financing of private companies, some to finance local infrastructure, and only a small part to creating a currency stabi-



Jacques Cheminade (right), during his campaign for President of France, in 1995.

lization fund.

This was the basis for the “French miracle” of the 1950s. The key to the functioning of this whole system was that the credits were paid back only through the wealth they had contributed to creating. In this context, it must be said that there is no excuse for the bad-mouthing within the French administration against the Marshall Plan, which led to an “informed” article in *Le Monde*, saying that while the European countries were perfectly able to cooperate in the Marshall Plan, the “cohesion and political will are missing totally in the Southeastern European countries today”! The same article claimed that a Marshall Plan approach used toward Russia between 1991 and 1996 had not stopped the present financial collapse of that country.

The so-called Marshall Plan for the Balkans which the European Union is putting together at this point, will not function, because it is supposed to be run by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and by EU Commissioner for Monetary Affairs Yves-Thibaut de Silguy—the very cause of the present financial collapse. The only viable approach is represented by the Schiller Institute plan for Balkan reconstruction, to be conceived not in itself, but as the Southeast European branch of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. . . .

To carry out these policies, a “Survivors’ Club” must be created, which includes the three Asian giants, but also the main continental European countries, as well as Clinton’s

United States. LaRouche must be the catalyst of that alliance. Within continental Europe, France represents potentially the determining component and the lever for an alliance between Russia, India, and China, on the one hand, and the United States, on the other. But, in order to do so, “our old country” must take risks once again. It must put an end to its submission, not to engage in sterile confrontation with the United States, but to change that country, by allying itself with those who are fighting the financial oligarchy—the LaRouche forces. France must become exemplary once again, which means waging a fight within ourselves in order to eliminate the smallness of the ideology of the last 20 years. If today we wage war against others, it is because we have forgotten how to fight within ourselves. To be French is to become the friend of men who will be born in the future, as the great Carnot said: “to be a citizen of all places and contemporary of all times.”



Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, who has strongly endorsed Lyndon LaRouche's call for a New Bretton Woods global financial system.

Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam

How a small country can defeat the IMF

Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam is from Malaysia. He worked as a high-level civil servant in the Treasury for 27 years, and, at the end of his public career, occupied the post of Deputy Secretary General. He is today very active in the private sector as corporate adviser to the Sungey Way Group and vice chairman of Malaysia's Business Council. He is the author of several books, of which the latest is Healing the Wounded Tiger: How the Turmoil Is Reshaping Malaysia.

I bring you greetings from Malaysia, and am happy to be able to meet with friends and leaders in France, in Europe, our friends from the North. I would like our friends to understand what we did and why, why we introduced controls against hedge funds, which had mercilessly attacked us.

First, there are some things you should know about Southeast Asia, and Malaysia. Malaysia is a multi-racial country, with 55% indigenous Malays, 35% Chinese, and 8% Indian. Islam is the main religion, but it is a country of religious tolerance. For example, I am a third-generation Sri Lankan, a Christian, and I have reached high positions in politics and the economy.

The Malaysian economy was in good condition, except its balance of payments was deteriorating, due to growth. The Thai economy was much worse off. Then, along came the currency speculators, who, like sharks, smelled blood, and

attacked the Thai currency viciously. There was panic, and other investors pulled out their funds. Through contagion, it spread through Southeast Asia.

Why did the attack occur? There are very evil, powerful forces throughout the world who are ready to destroy even their own countries, for the sake of their own greed. Do not think it cannot happen in France, in Europe. Asia was emerging, and Malaysia was experiencing rates of growth of 8% over eight or nine years, and a very low 3% inflation rate. The British, Anglo-Canadian oligarchy felt threatened, and moved to destroy those countries. The Malaysian currency was threatened with devaluation, the stock market collapsed, and there was the danger of social instability and political unrest.

IMF remedies threatened sovereignty

What sorts of “remedies” did the IMF propose to “help” those countries whose economies were plunged into chaos by the speculators? The measures imposed by the IMF—currency devaluations, the rise in interest rates from 8 to 25%, the cuts in public allocations for schools, hospitals, and welfare—threatened the very essence of the country and its sovereignty. Therefore, [Prime Minister] Dr. Mahathir, who is a very strong leader and who is supported by the population, decided to tell the IMF, “Enough is enough. We won't follow your policies any more.”

Unlike its neighbors, Malaysia had a good internal economic situation: It had considerable reserves, hardly any debt, no dependence on aid. This allowed the country to go, six months ago, for a selective exchange-control mechanism to “save itself,” to protect itself from the sharks. The exchange rate was fixed at 3.8 ringgits to the dollar. The speculators were stopped from using the ringgit to speculate in foreign stock markets. Selective exchange controls stopped capital