

Cheminade Calls for Program Of ‘Combat and Reconstruction’

PARIS, Oct. 22—Jacques Cheminade, leader of the French Solidarity & Progress (S&P) party, launched his Presidential campaign at a major conference on Oct. 15-16 near Paris, on the theme “A great construction project for tomorrow—a world without the City of London or Wall Street.” In a broad-ranging speech, filmed by several TV stations, Cheminade, a longtime associate of Lyndon LaRouche, placed his campaign in the context of the extremely dangerous strategic situation worldwide, as the financial system collapses. The event had been announced in an AFP wire, which was picked up by other media, including the national all-news public radio France Info, Europe 1, and the *Journal de Dimanche*.

Following Cheminade’s keynote address, Helga Zepp-LaRouche addressed the conference (see below).

In a discussion after the conference, Cheminade pointed to three aspects that made him particularly optimistic: first, that 350 people had attended (in spite of a major rugby match the same day); second, that most of them stayed throughout, and paid close attention; and third, the quality of the many questions asked and the number of people who volunteered to work on the campaign.

A Declaration of War

Cheminade opened his speech with a declaration of war against the financial empire: “I am going to begin with heavy words: We are at war. It is not visible, but the war is declared, insidious, and destructive. A conglomerate of financial interests operating out of the City of London and Wall Street dominate the world of today. The law they obey is short-term profit, possession, cupidity, social demolition and manipulation of minds. . . .

“I want to present to you today a program of combat and of reconstruction. A combat we must win, not for the pleasure of winning, but to be able to reconstruct. It is possible to get out of the crisis from above, by mobilizing the best of our resources and reviving the best of

all that our history has contributed.

“However, those resources are not being mobilized today, and that is why I am running, to try to reorient the dynamic of the Presidential campaign by raising a challenge which could change the course of events, provided you help me. I have very little financial means, few established networks. My means are limited to . . . you, every one of you, here in this room, and those whom you can mobilize.”

Cheminade described the multiple techniques that are used to corrupt and demoralize the population, so that “they have lost their self-esteem and the esteem for the society in which they live.”

He stressed that republican education is the pillar of a sound state policy, the most important objective of any society being to develop its citizens: “The main enemy is this empire, its make-up and how it works. So, we have to fight the enemy and remoralize, by so doing, those who have been hit by the system, those who are indignant and in revolt because they have a sense of what justice should be, but have no project because they have been deprived of culture and have let themselves be conditioned and somewhat corrupted.”

Cheminade’s Project

My project, he said, “is a vast construction project for tomorrow, a world without the City or Wall Street. . . . France needs a project which mobilizes, and redirects money towards productive investments in education, research, health care, public works, and thus creates qualified jobs. This project has to combine a domestic policy based on development of everyone’s creative powers, to a foreign policy based on development of all countries and all peoples.

“For that, we have a trump card. We have to exploit the intrinsic weakness of our enemies—the monetarist British or Anglo-American Empire, with its accomplices and subjects in continental Europe, and in particular, in France. At the end of the day, its only recourse



EIRNS/Julien Lemaître

At the conference announcing his Presidential campaign, Jacques Cheminade issued a declaration of war against the financial empire, and outlined the measures necessary to defeat it, and rebuild the world economy.

is the financial pump... This financial pump has created the conditions for hyperinflation.”

To maintain these conditions, Cheminade added, the empire “needs a supranational financial dictatorship in Europe, and if you listen very carefully, behind the word ‘federalism,’ you can hear the word ‘feudalism.’ It means austerity, rigor—in other words, the destruction of society’s bases. Such austerity and rigor implemented by Chancellor Brüning in Germany, between 1930 and 1932, created the conditions for Adolf Hitler to come to power, with the financial help and support of an ancestor of the Bush family. So our trump card is to exploit this weakness, and the fact that no one supports this system unless he is corrupt and disoriented, or conditioned. So we have to pull him out of this conditioning and this corruption.

“Our second trump card, is what we can awaken here in France, with those who are waiting for us, and what is deep-rooted in our history... Then, we have the young people, committed to justice, who are awaiting references, horizons, and politicians who are ready to fight without hypocrisy or careerism. They will ask: ‘What weapons do we have? How are we going to combat this empire, which is considered far away, but is in fact very near?’”

The first of these weapons, is Glass-Steagall, said Cheminade, “the separation of investment banks gambling on the markets, from deposit and credit banks

which serve the depositors and finance, or should finance, the economy. It’s not a technical measure, it’s a choice, a political weapon. This choice would divest the investment banks of their capacity to create money...

“In other words, those investment banks will quickly be bankrupt. And it’s preferable that it be done in an orderly, civilized way, rather than the chaotic way towards which we are now headed by doing next to nothing... Glass-Steagall is therefore a clean-up job, to clean out the Augean Stables.

“After that great clean-up, we will not have enough

solvent banking institutions and liquidity to finance those projects. So, a system of productive public credit will have to be set up, because putting the speculators out of the business will not lead mechanically to a law of producers.

“The state has to recover its role, instead of being robbed as it has over the past 30 years, and launch great projects by creating a favorable environment for enterprises using high-technology production. That is the way to eliminate unemployment, by creating skilled jobs in research, development and production. The system of productive public credit requires a complete change in the way of thinking, out of the current liberal, monetarist matrix, in a society obsessed with having and possessing.”

Another point Cheminade stressed was the need to put an end to the corrupt neocolonial connivance in Africa (a policy nicknamed *Françafrique*, “*fric*” being slang for money); by adopting great projects, a major plank of his platform. While *Françafrique* would build a prestigious Presidential palace in some African capital, or a show-case sports stadium, Cheminade calls for replenishing Lake Chad, constructing the Jonglei Canal, and the implementing the Roudaire Plan for North Africa.

A Real Debate

The afternoon session, in addition to featuring Zepp-LaRouche, brought together three well-known,



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Cheminade described the multiple techniques that are used to corrupt and demoralize the population, so that “they have lost their self-esteem and the esteem for the society in which they live.” Here, organizers campaign in Aix-en-Provence for Glass-Steagall and a New Bretton Woods.

independent-minded economists, who have all gone after the insanity of the current financial system in their own way, calling for an end to the market’s dictates to states, and greater regulation for the good of the population. They were François Morin, economics professor, former member of the General Council of the Banque de France, and author of a recent highly popular book titled *A World Without Wall Street*, which recognizes the role of Jacques Cheminade in the introduction; Henri Sterdyniak, one of the authors, in September 2010, of a “Manifesto of Terrified Economists” which blasted the austerity policies of EU governments and gathered thousands of signatures; and Eric de Keuleneer, professor at the Solvay Business School of Economics in Brussels, who also spoke at the Schiller Institute’s conference in Rüsselsheim in July. The panel was presented and moderated by Christine Bierre, editor-in-chief of *Nouvelle Solidarité*.

A lively debate among the panelists and with the audience followed. While all agreed on the need to prohibit derivatives trading and speculation on sovereign debt, there was a lack of clarity on the issue of public credit creation, as opposed to a Keynesian approach. In a subsequent intervention, Cheminade wholeheartedly supported the attack by Professor Morin on the Mont Pelerin Society and the von Hayek school, which condemn any state intervention in the economy.

This was followed by a panel of S&P spokesmen on what a Cheminade Presidency would adopt as great projects: Karel Vereycken proposed a massive improvement of inland water transport and rapid aerotrain transportation throughout France; Benoît Chalifoux called for fourth-generation nuclear power to be developed; and Rudolph Bierent and Sébastien Drochon presented the case for the immediate moving of French space efforts out of low orbit and into a lunar base and Mars exploration.

A Europe of the Fatherlands

Helga Zepp-LaRouche then gave a broad overview of the current situation, with many historical references. She described how, over a 40-year period, a policy of economic and social self-destruction had been forced on the nations of Europe, through the forced introduction of the euro and the “green” anti-nuclear and anti-industrial policies.

“Now, it is clear that Europe can only survive if we go back to a Europe of national sovereign republics, a ‘Europe of the Fatherlands.’ she said. “But how should we accomplish this? We can’t wait till 2012, because the crisis is now.”

She then pointed to the preparations for a coup against the Constitution in the United States, by the forces behind President Obama. But at the same time, she noted, there are calls for investigations, or an impeachment against Obama, and a growing movement for the implementation of the Glass-Steagall.

“This is total war,” she said. “And the fight for Glass-Steagall is also totally powerful, totally different than here in Europe at this point. You have the H.R. 1489 bill by Marcy Kaptur [D-Ohio]. Today, the 47th co-sponsor signed, John Lewis [D-Ga.], a close collaborator of Martin Luther King, who, on the before the dedication of the King Memorial in Washington, de-



EIRNS/Julien Lemaitre

Helga Zepp-LaRouche called for the creation of a “Europe of the Fatherlands,” to replace the bankrupt euro-system, which is now imposing a bankers’ dictatorship over the nations of Europe.

cided to sign this. More than 200 national and regional organizations have joined it and their numbers are growing daily.”

Then, she described the rapid moves by the Russian and the Chinese governments, to enhance their economic cooperation with the aim of developing the Russian Far East and its vast resources. Zepp-LaRouche referred to China’s reformer Sun Yat-sen (see article this issue), who used the ideas of the German economist Friedrich List—a declared proponent of the “American System”—to draft plans for the economic development of China.

Now, these ideas are being revived, with the offer to the United States to participate in these developments. She continued:

“But even something more fundamental and exciting is going on, and that is, that all of these shifts, and the breakdown of the Atlantic, oligarchically dominated system of the British Empire, means that we are at an end of an epoch: The British system is collapsing. There

is nothing which will prevent this from happening. So the danger of a dark age does exist.

“But, the new era is coming: You can be 100% certain of that, because the laws of the universe are the proof that a new era of mankind is coming. The only question which we have to determine is if this will occur in our lifetime, or if it will occur three or four generations afterward. And you know, I’m a little bit egotistical: I would like to live to see this! But it will come, for sure.”

Referring to space pioneer Krafft Ehrlicke’s concept of the “Extraterrestrial Imperative,” she ended her speech with a tremendously optimistic perspective for the future, if we manage to turn around the current paradigm:

“Krafft Ehrlicke—you know, he was the man who developed the rocket for the Apollo Project of Kennedy—at the end of his life, appreciated very much our work, by saying that he was absolutely convinced that scientific progress *is* the mission of man in the universe, but that it absolutely had to be connected with artistic beauty, with the aesthetical education of man, and with the combination of great scientific discovery with great Classical art.

“And that is a beautiful thought, because that is the thinking of creativity, and people who have tasted this, what Nicholas of Cusa called, ‘having tasted the sweetness of truth,’ such people will throw away all the other sweetnesses, and all the other foods which might have delighted them before, because they recognize that having participated in this divine creativity, is what makes us human.

“Now to imagine how a world, and soon, a universe, would look like, where people really have a desire, a passionate desire, to exhaust their own creative potential—this is a vision of the future which I think you absolutely need. But if you think about it, I think the mission of our generation and the people who are our contemporaries today, is that we have to create a political and economic order which is in cohesion with the laws of the universe: And that will be the new era of mankind.”

This was followed by one and a half hours of discussion.

Cheminade closed the packed two-day conference with a call to all participants to seize this unique moment of crisis to become active, to mobilize for his campaign, and beyond.