

Cheminade Launches 100 Candidate Slate To Rally National Resistance

April 23—As the results of the April 22 first round of the Presidential elections in France were announced, Jacques Cheminade and scores of his campaign workers were focussing on the mission ahead, of building from the recognition that the candidate and the Solidarité & Progrès party now have throughout the country, to consolidate a movement of national resistance. The immediate opportunity to do so is the National Assembly election on June 10, in which S&P will present a slate of 100 candidates to keep the pressure up for the real solutions.

In his remarks Cheminade said he was hardly surprised by his results, that it was more or less what he was expecting, given that he only received 0.4% of the total media coverage allocated to the ten candidates from January to March 19, and even less before that. Officially, Cheminade was credited with only 0.25% of the vote, or 90,000 votes.

Yet, with his intense campaigning on media (180 interviews over the past five weeks) and in the streets during the official campaign period, Cheminade succeeded in polarizing the debate on the systemic nature of the financial-economic crisis and the necessity for a global Glass-Steagall banking reform and a public credit policy, as opposed to the austerity which the European Union is shoving down the throats of Europe's people to save the banks. His programmatic message will be a rallying cry for the French population, as they face the choice between the two top vote-getters in the first round, Socialist candidate François Hollande (about 27%) and incumbent President Nicolas Sarkozy (about 26%).

Cheminade's statement assessing the strategic issues in the Presidential campaign run-off, follows.

Cheminade's Statement

"The result of the Presidential elections corresponds, alas, to what could be expected. The run-off



EIRNS/Julien Lemaître

Jacques Cheminade found a warm reception for his message of creating a world "without the City and Wall Street," in his campaigning in city centers throughout France.

will unfold between François Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy anti-climactically. François Hollande, absent a tacit agreement between Nicolas Sarkozy, certain elements of the Front National, and the pseudo-centrists, will win the second round on May 6. However, he is not now prepared to cope with the offensive that the City of London and Wall Street will launch against France, because his propensity toward consensus leads him to underestimate the financial oligarchy's reaction.

"Under such conditions, as of May 7, François Hollande will show signs of resisting the world of finance and will thus face an all-out offensive for which he is ill-prepared. Thus, that is why we will have to support him by ourselves becoming, in France, in Europe, and in the world, the vanguard of this resistance, and by expanding the struggle. Otherwise he will give in, in the image of François Mitterrand, and proceed to carry out a social purge, more or less moderate. In that case, we

will have to expose his subservience and oppose it uncompromisingly.

“As for myself, during this campaign, I’ve been subjected to a policy of exclusion, taken to the extreme by *Le Monde*, which put me on the Index, or a policy of defamation, in which the March 21 broadcast on “La Chaîne Parlementaire” was the most appalling and revealing example.

“Therefore, the votes I did receive came from determined activists, who took my program seriously, by overcoming the dubious image this policy attempted to propagate.

“It is with these voter-activists that we will field 100 candidates in the June 10 legislative elections; they will show in the coming storm, that they are as capable as I am to argue for our ideas.

“My thoughts go to the 585 mayors who endorsed my candidacy, to the activists of Solidarité & Progrès who fought with all their hearts, and to all those whom I met in our organizing in the streets. They also go also to the workers at Petroplus, Schindler, the Fonderies du Poitou, Erhel Hydris, Fournier Laboratories, PSA-Aulnay, and Florange-Mittal, whose workplaces are immediately threatened by the looting of the financial system in which we live.

“My every determination will go to supporting our 100 candidates, men and women, who will be the reference points in the approaching storm and who will show the way out to safety.”

Cheminade’s Final Electoral Call

Why You Should Vote for Me

April 21—*On April 20, hours before the official Presidential campaigning ended in France, ahead of the first-round vote on April 22, Jacques Cheminade urged Frenchmen to vote for him in a video and written message. Here is an English translation.*

We are now at the end of the election campaign.

The purpose of this meeting is to explain why you must vote for me the day after tomorrow, that is, for the ideas I have done my best to uphold.

- The first reason is negative: **rejection of the heirs of the party regime**, who have held onto power with the success we have seen: the failure to pass the political ‘driver’s license test’ has driven France up against the wall of economic reality, and led to arrangements among friends: the man who presents himself as “the candidate of the people” [Sarkozy] is going to the [luxury] Crillon Hotel with his contributors; the man with the Rose [Socialist François Hollande] associates with bankers to seek “a true balanced budget”; and [Left Front] Jean-Luc Mélenchon got lost in the Buisson [meaning “bush,” a reference to a right-wing friend of his]. The candidates of the people are not often seen where people hang out.

- The second reason to vote for me, is that **I presented a correct diagnosis of the crisis in 1995**, and so, you can trust me more than the others, because I wrote the prescription to cure it.

- The third reason is that I am the one who posed the crucial issue in this campaign: Either the State restores its control over the debt, i.e., the issuance of currency and credit, **with a National Bank and a public investment fund**, or the State continues to turn the debt over to the banks, whose gambling debts are paid off by the European Central Bank with increasingly indulgent credit. This is called the golden rule of budget balancing that the right wing wants to write into the Constitution—it disguises the bailout of the losers so that the losers can pay back the winners, while subjecting the people to a crippling social purge. This is the austerity of Chancellor Brüning in the Germany of the early 1930s, and of Pierre Laval in France in 1935—a policy admired by Benjamin Lancar, who heads Mr. Sarkozy’s People’s Youth, and which led to the consequences that we know. Léon Blum, during his trial in Riom on 20 February 1942, correctly denounced “the advocates of extreme austerity who led Europe into chaos.”

They have returned and are at it again in Greece.

- The fourth reason to vote for me is that the reason I have been attacked much more than the others, and constantly harassed, is that **I represent the worst enemy of the system that has led us to disaster**. A vote for me is a vote against the financial oligarchy, a vote for someone who respects the voters.

- Finally, the fifth reason is that **the left will soon have control of all the institutional power centers**: the Presidency, the National Parliament, the Senate, and the local governments. That is a good thing, because the left will have no more excuses. At that point, I will be the one, with a leverage proportional to the

number of votes I receive or to the attention I have drawn, who will put them on probation, to see whether they take up the challenges posed by history.

• I was the first one to denounce the blackmail of the financial instrument that Eurex¹ issued against the French debt on April 16. I was the one who denounced the world of the City [of London] and of Wall Street, its speculative funds and alternative platforms, which have operated in complete darkness ever since France applied the European directive on Financial Instruments Markets on November 1, 2007. This is not a conspiracy, but an existential issue, for them, and for us. Either Europe will defend the interests of the people, or be under the yoke of the City and Wall Street.

Seeing with the Eyes of the Future

The storm is approaching: A vote for me means choosing a Pantagruel over the Panurge² of politics.

You will notice that I haven't spoken to you of space or of nuclear energy: They are essential issues, but they come later. I represent in this respect the middle and the long term, striving among the blind who are Green, and the politically visually impaired, to see with the eyes of the future, of reason and of the heart.

Solidarité et Progrès, the party that supports me, will present **100 candidates in the upcoming legislative elections (not I myself, as has been wrongly stated, but Solidarité et Progrès).**

In order to prove that, beyond the Presidential elections, people other than me, increasingly numerous and increasingly attuned to of the customs of our country, will be able to express the ideas that I attempted to uphold, hopefully better, and even more forcefully.

Finding such candidates, men and women, is not a problem for Solidarité et Progrès. Financing their campaigns, on the other hand, is. Because political funding in our country, as it is now organized, is reserved for



Communication by Internet was a major avenue for Cheminade's Presidential campaign, providing an effective alternative to the news media, which often slandered the candidate.

those who already in power, in particular, for legislative elections. Just as we need to break the financial stranglehold in order to ensure social justice in Europe and in the world, we also need to break the financial stranglehold which denies access to politics to some. Our task will be to do that, and also to put on the table themes that have been absent, such as foreign policy, political institutions, health care, housing, and culture—as well as the problems of local governments in France and in the departments outside the mainland. In a country where the productive tools are being destroyed and austerity is being imposed, where the banks gamble on food and air, yet politicians talk about other things. People blame each other, and what is essential is left unsaid.

In sum, *we are fighting against deception.*

I will say a few words on the campaign itself.

We took part in this campaign in very difficult conditions:

- Because of a lack of financial means compared to other candidates (a budget of EU300,000), whereas even the other “small” candidates had a budget twice, thrice, or even five times as much, and the five heirs (Mme. Le Pen and MM. Mélenchon, Hollande, Sarkozy, and Bayrou) had a budget between ten and more than fifty times more.

- Because of the campaign waged by certain press and by certain politicians who tried to pervert my message by presenting me as an “eccentric” or a “good-natured loon” (to quote them), although all they had were index cards about me, having usually read nothing from my program. The lynching at La Chaîne parlementaire and France 2 on the program “Des paroles et des actes” (Words and Actions) were just the climax of that cam-

1. See “Cheminade Lambastes Eurex Speculation,” *EIR*, April 20, 2012.

2. Characters from François Rabelais' 16th-Century satirical masterpiece, *The Lives of Gargantua and Pantagruel*.

paign, which discredited its authors themselves.

- Finally, because of the attitude of certain written press, of which the extreme case is *Le Monde*, who decided to put me on the Index.³ I would remind you that in the April 10, 2012 edition, a footnote stated: “We did not question Jacques Cheminade, which is the policy adopted by *Le Monde* since his candidacy was made official.” Such an unprecedented attack on political pluralism reveals the state of mind which Hubert Beuve-Méry [the founder of *Le Monde*] criticized at the end of the 1930s, by attacking “*this strange conception of journalism which should normally bear increasingly bitter fruit.*”

In short, the silence imposed, or the relentless attempt to destroy a candidate described as “eccentric,” indicates that something else is going on.

LaRouche: Enemy of the Financiers

One expression of the cause is the constant mention of the name of **Lyndon LaRouche** (never by myself), in a context of untruths, of quotes taken out of context, and of accusations reminiscent of the practices of totalitarian regimes. I know (and I have the proof) that the U.S. Embassy has been spreading this message in France for more than 30 years, including through many Internet sites, to harm me, because they fear the spread of LaRouche’s ideas in Europe.

So let us say something about Lyndon LaRouche, since those who attack me constantly bring him up. LaRouche has been and remains the enemy of the world of the City and Wall Street, and vice versa. He represents in the United States the spirit of the Founding Fathers, of Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and what the Kennedy brothers attempted to realize. One of his most steadfast supporters was Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson, the grand lady of the American Civil Rights movement together with Rosa Parks, and the first person to organize a trip for Martin Luther King in the South of the United States.

In France, when LaRouche was subjected to a McCarthy-type political trial in the United States, the Résistants in France rose up to defend him: Marie-Madeleine Fourcade and Jean-Gabriel Revault d’Allonnes. Ramsey Clark, Lyndon Johnson’s Attorney General, and author of the civil rights laws, described the judicial and political harassment against LaRouche as the most serious and the most extreme case of perversion of justice and of political bias that he had ever

3. A reference to the list of books banned by the Catholic Church beginning in 1559, by Pope Paul IV.

come across in the U.S. history of the 20th Century.

I myself did not mention the name of LaRouche in this Presidential campaign, although I considered it normal to put his references in the links on my Internet page. Therefore, I feel I owe this explanation to those who have questions and legitimately wanted to look into the matter.

For the others, who acted like picadors in using LaRouche’s name like a spike to try and exhaust the animal—in other words, me—I propose we get back together in the next months and years.

I would just conclude by emphasizing **our interventions in the street**, where in scores of towns, with or without me, we brought together fifty to one hundred people, such as in Lille, and we were encouraged and supported by **men and women looking for a political alternative**, and who are increasingly angry. During my trips, in train stations, on the trains, and in the street, I personally met French people who spontaneously came up to express their support and to wish me “*bon courage.*”

To conclude, I would mention what happened at the end of a meeting organized by the feminist association “Ni putes ni soumises” (“Neither whores nor subjects”), when a man and a woman came up to me to say they would vote for me because of the attitude the media had toward me. I had to convince them that not all the media were at fault, but a certain band of journalists who naturally took orders from what they perceived to be the dominant powers.

This woman and this man then told me something I had not thought of myself: “You just spoke of your position on the rights of women. And we just realized that there are several pages in your program about ‘the development of the family and the fight against sexism.’ We realized that you have really fascinating things to say about that, as well as about run-down neighborhoods and immigration. But the journalists never once asked you a question about that; they only kept trying to ridicule your position on space exploration, like children in a sandbox who imitate their neighbors.”

I think that French women and men are ready to show that they do not support the incompetents, the deceivers, and the bullies, and that support for my ideas will be vigorously shown. I call on all undecided voters, those who would abstain, and dissidents, to support me. I simply hope, because the situation in Europe is so serious, that it will be done as soon as possible. In any case, contrary to what certain people hope, I am not alone—and I will be less and less alone.