

france

Poniatowski: Insect-Torturing Fat Boy

August 24 (IPS) — Michel Poniatowski, France's Interior Minister, is one of the wierdest agents in the Rockefeller camp. While President Giscard oversees the looting of the French plantation, the plump Poniatowski has made a place for himself as the hired gun.

But despite his tough cop image, Poniatowski is nothing but a sadistic little fat boy, pushed forward by the Rockefeller cabal to play the firm but benevolent strong man who will herd the French population into fascism. Poniatowski's sadistic view of the French population has unfortunately been validated by their willingness to be treated like sheep.

His assignment, for which he is psychologically well suited, is to use terror to take the minds of the population off the collapse of the French economy, engineered by Giscard under instructions from One Chase Manhattan Plaza. Gestapo-style random police searches in every major city, prison riots, "terrorist" bombings, and similar tricks are the arsenal the Interior Minister is using to prepare the French for permanent police rule. Conveniently, the Interior Ministry also controls the Regional Planning Agency (DATAR), which is being built up as the primary slave labor deployment agency for the nation. DATAR, originally formed under De Gaulle as a run-of-the-mill industrial development planning body, is now engaged in setting up huge redevelopment projects in various sections of France. Minister of Labor Durafour indicated where the workforce for the projects will come from when he remarked that workers who lost their jobs as casualties in the "fight against inflation" need not worry; they can always be relocated by DATAR.

The Politics of Fear

To encourage French workers to accept the hell of relocation camps, Poniatowski is turning French cities into something even worse. He is organizing seal-and-search operations on a scale unknown in previous French history, striking particularly the working-class quarters of every major city in the country. Picture the situation: You are walking home. Suddenly you are stopped in the middle of your street by the police and asked to show your identification papers. Trembling, you submit to a search. Cleared by the police and happy to have escaped trouble, you are permitted to go on your way; but first you are handed a slip of paper signed by Poniatowski himself in which the Minister apologizes for the disturbance but emphasizes that, after all, the whole

thing was for your safety and good. Now you can go home.

You are supposed to feel that benevolent despot Poniatowski is protecting you from your private fears: robbers, rapists, muggers, whatever. If you do, you are already caught in Poniatowski's Tavistock trap. For the whole seal-and-search maneuver is an obvious fraud, a laughably ineffective method of "fighting crime." It is an excellent way of terrorizing people, but its very size warns any but the most blundering of criminals to get out of harm's way. Indeed, the French press reports that the entire operation has thus far rounded up nothing but a handful of born losers.

The Benevolent Protector

To keep the pressure on, Poniatowski has also engineered a series of bloody prison riots all over France. [See IPS No. 15] The result was an orgy of law-and-order frenzy, exactly as planned. Workers and particularly petit-bourgeois layers, already enraged by the economic chaos around them, went wild against the prisoners while Poniatowski stepped forward as the benevolent protector. Poniatowski declared, "My true interest is with the victims." And willing "victims" are being prepared to walk right into his cattle cars — in orderly rows, of course.

Who Is Poniatowski?

Poniatowski himself is not so much a Tavistock creation as a particular sort of social monster, a monster willing to act as a tool of the Rockefeller cabal. His ancestors were semi-professional warlords who fought all over Europe in the service of various regimes during the past thousand years. His father and his two uncles took part in the anti-Bolshevik war of 1919. Later they found a place for themselves in the developing OSS-CIA network.

The aristocratic Poniatowski was a sickly child; his plumpness dates from his year-long stay in a tuberculosis sanatorium. Because he was "delicate" he was rarely allowed outside the family circle, and his only friends were his cousins. His autobiography, *Showing My Hand*, describes with emotion one of his favorite childhood activities: playing with ants. Picture poor Poniatowski, all alone, sitting in the dirt in the back garden making the red ants fight the black ants until Mama calls him in for supper.

During his adolescence Ponia was sent to exclusive private schools, where he sought to obliterate his years as

an invalid by being "somewhat of a gang leader," in his own words. But he never developed any friendships outside his family circle. He left home in the 1940s and travelled to Algiers to fight the Germans, but once he arrived realized he had no idea what to do. Then one night, half drunk in a bar, he found himself engaged in an elite paratrooper unit. The companionship of war was his first real social experience outside the family.

After being "blooded" in the Algerian campaigns, he followed family tradition and entered the Free French secret service. Poniatoski recalls, "My work there was interesting, political in part. In a way, it was quite educational"

The pathetic Ponia never really escaped from the back garden; he has been playing with ants ever since. Thus his view of humanity: "Man himself is an eminently cybernetic being," he writes. "I believe in inborn conditioning and in a self-defense reflex thanks to which the species reacts, in the end, in the right way."

He is a pure corporatist, seeking to impose the closed family circle of his childhood on society as a whole. In fact he believes that the family in its most repressive



form, along with the corporative structures and ant-like "individual egoisms," will make up the society of the future, replacing the "unions and the so-called class struggle." But "to protect the common good, the State will have to be quite strong." And it is a Tavistock state he has in mind. He describes "the scientific revolution, not that of the streets but that of laboratories, investigation centers, computer rooms, board rooms... It is the revolution of the men in white." Better, the White Terror.

It is Poniatoski's insane belief that the world is merely an ant-hill, a complex network of easily manipulated particles, which makes him a perfect Tavistock agent, eminently suited for his work in the secret service and later on.

Into Politics

Poniatoski graduated from the secret service to politics, but the essential character of his work did not change. Since the early sixties Ponia has been in charge of an inside-outside job on the Gaullists, using as a base the Independent Republican Party which he built around Giscard d'Estaing.

While Giscard worked from inside the Gaullist government, Poniatoski built up the Independent Republican machine which was based on provincial leaders excluded from power by DeGaulle because of their collaboration with the Nazis during the Occupation. Poniatoski expanded the party's network among corporatist-minded provincial middle-class layers, those who disliked DeGaulle's anti-American, anti-NATO policies but were too afraid to oppose him while he was alive. This network, supplemented by the fascist goons recruited by Poniatoski, made it possible for Giscard to destroy Gaullist candidate Chaban in the 1974 presidential elections.

Now Poniatoski's gang holds political power, Giscard occupies center stage and plays the part of the egghead politician while Poniatoski takes care of the counterinsurgency which makes Giscard's government possible. Because they lack a fascist movement or any broad popular support they are forced to consolidate their power from the top, a task which Poniatoski has taken up energetically. He is currently trying to build up a docile state apparatus geared to the requirements of Rockefeller's fascist blueprint, squeezing out the Gaullists and other uncooperative bureaucrats and replacing them with his own men. His takeover of DATAR, formerly a semi-autonomous agency, is typical of his mode of operations.

But loud-mouth Poniatoski may be moving a bit too fast. It is doubtful that the fragile Giscard-Poniatoski government could survive a serious Gaullist offensive, much less a working-class mobilization, since its base is already precariously small.

Giscard and Poniatoski are in fact merely the product of fear; this is their only real base. Therefore it is fear they must create — fear of criminals, fear of riotous prisoners, fear of random acts of terrorism, fear of peasant uprisings, fear of anything that threatens to upset life in the ant-hill. Poniatoski's success depends on the ant-like response of the French population; but their potential humanity is the key to his destruction.