
PARIS

Policy prospects in the new cabinet

by Joelle Leconte

The efforts of Great Britain, the Socialist International, and the Club of Rome to put François Mitterrand in power will now be rewarded. The new government of France is not entirely an antenna of the Socialist International or the British Secret Intelligence Service; it operates under certain domestic constraints. However, gratitude for services rendered, and, for some, long-acquired habits of collaboration, mean that the Socialist International, the British, and the Club of Rome are institutional shareholders of the new socialist regime.

We can expect France to play an important role in the Socialist International strategy defined following Ronald Reagan's election. At their December 1980 meeting in Washington, D.C., attended by François Mitterrand, and his new ministers and advisers Michel Rocard, Nicole Questiaux, Jacques Attali, Edith Cresson, Alain Boubilil, and Maurice Benassayag, the Socialist International defined its role in the Club of Rome-inspired Global 2000 plan. Thus, the Brandt Commission proposals on North-South dialogue and the Palme Commission's disarmament proposals geared to different audiences are both instruments of the Global 2000 policy of deindustrialization and depopulation.

Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's policy is likely to be a compromise between Global 2000 and the preservation of some particular interests of the "French Empire" in Africa. The nuances will be illustrated by a difference of approach toward Latin America and Africa. In Latin America, Foreign Policy Adviser Régis Debray (whose appointment is not yet confirmed) and Minister of Planning Michel Rocard, through their contacts on the continent, will give heavy support to the "liberation struggles" that are part of the Global 2000 scenario of depopulation through war.

In francophone Africa, on the other hand, the "Imperials" will not want to give free rein to the four horsemen of the apocalypse. This is, after all, the heart of the would-be Empire. From recent statements by Claude Cheysson, and by Jean Saint-Geours and his other colleagues in the Club of Rome who supported Mitterrand, it seems that their intent is to maintain certain capital

flows toward francophone Africa in order to support a classic colonial sector of the domestic economy based on looting of raw materials, a special concern of Cheysson's as coauthor of the European Community's Lomé Agreement. Cheysson stresses that while these African nationals should not perish of hunger, there should be no "industrialization on the South Korea or Taiwan models. . . . The European or national authorities must be reserved the right to suspend aid in such cases," he told *Le Monde* on April 30.

The government's appointment of Edgar Pisani, member of the Club of Rome and of Brandt's North-South Commission, to replace Cheysson as EC commissioner in charge of relations with the underdeveloped sector, is another indication that differences on this or that issue merely represent a debate among committed Malthusians.

The French Socialist's victory will also give a boost to the "disarmament" policy spearheaded by Olof Palme. France's domestic military policy is still unclear. One of the first decisions Mitterrand announced was to cancel nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific; the tests have now been resumed.

The last semblance of Gaullist resistance to supranational European integration has been swept away. The one-world European forces, from the European Movement to the Federalists, which had been held in check, are now being unleashed. Claude Cheysson announced during a discussion in Paris with U.K. Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington that the hitherto crucial Franco-German alliance will lose its importance to the benefit of more "intimate" relations with Great Britain and other EC countries. This means that the already extremely powerful grip held by the British on EC affairs will be consolidated.

Domestically, the Club of Rome, et al. have been given a free hand in the area of culture and youth. What to expect from the Socialists in those areas was already outlined last March in Paris when the Socialist International met with Club of Rome founder Aurelio Peccei to discuss "culture." In his book *One Hundred Pages for the Future*, released just before the French elections, Peccei declared that mankind must give up its confidence in its ability to understand and master the universe, its confidence in science and progress.

School curricula will be geared toward inculcating this into the minds of children, to orient them toward the "social sciences," group psychology, and cultural relativism. Such themes are the brain children of Unesco and the Aspen Institute, organizations with which the Minister of Leisure Time, André Henry, is closely associated. Added impetus in this direction will be provided by Mitterrand's scientific adviser, François Gros, a member of the Club of Rome's Stockholm-based IFIAS, and by Minister of Culture Jack Lang, a supporter of Red Brigades terrorist Franco Piperno.