

energy will supply 26 to 28 percent of France's total energy needs, as compared to the 30 percent projection of the Giscard government. Total capacity has been scaled down to 56 gigawatts, from 60 gigawatts in the original plan. The percentage of electricity that is nuclear-supplied will remain the same, largely because the Mitterrand administration abandoned a Giscard-initiated project to shift national energy use more heavily into electricity by encouraging industry to convert from fossil fuels.

The October program also supported the construction of two additional reprocessing facilities at La Hague, giving the complex a capacity of 1,600 tons per year by 1990. The expansion of La Hague was upheld against all expectations, since the Socialists had campaigned against the reprocessing facility in the presidential drive.

Constituency pressure

What happened between Mitterrand's July freeze announcement and the October adoption of a national energy plan by the National Assembly? Essentially, the Mitterrand administration got caught in its own rhetoric about giving "power to the people." Referendums on nuclear plant construction were held in each concerned community, and in the majority of instances, the localities voted in favor of continued construction. In two instances where the local referendums returned a "no" vote, the anti-nuclear decision was overturned by vote of the regional council. The referendums, in fact, were used to organize large-scale mobilizations in favor of nuclear power, bringing together the Communist Party-run CGT trade union and opposition party officials in the effort. In many instances, even Socialist mayors and other Socialist Party elected representatives decided to listen to their constituents and buck the pressure from Paris for a freeze.

One product of this mobilization was the formation of the Committee to Save Cattenom, the four-plant nuclear complex planned for the Lorraine district near the city of Metz. Two of the Cattenom plants were already under construction when Mitterrand's freeze was announced, and after weeks of intense activity by the French affiliates of the Fusion Energy Foundation and local officials, the third reactor project has been voted up and there are excellent prospects that the fourth will also be constructed. Leaders of the Committee to Save Cattenom cite the recently-initiated publication of the pro-technology French magazine *Fusion* and the formation of the Franco-German Committee for Nuclear Energy—with the participation of West German European Labor Party leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche and French European Labor Party leader Jacques Cheminade—as key factors in the success of their efforts.



Jacques Cheminade

Where has the opposition gone?

France is faced with an ironical and dangerous situation: The population is fast turning against the Socialist government—as the March 14-21 cantonal elections which gave a landslide victory to opposition candidates demonstrated—but there is no leadership in that opposition which offers a coherent alternative economic and foreign policy program. Instead, the opposition has adopted the tactic of taking issue with every particular government decision, an attitude which reached the height of ridiculousness when associates of former President Giscard d'Estaing denounced Mitterrand for going through with a Soviet gas deal that Giscard himself had negotiated and signed.

But the most despicable act of opposition leaders came at the height of the Malvinas crisis in late April when each one acclaimed Great Britain's colonial war in the South Atlantic and brazenly competed with Mitterrand in a contest to jeopardize France's longstanding ties of friendship to Latin America and the rest of the developing sector by fawning over Margaret Thatcher.

For the time being, Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris and a leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR party, is best situated to take the leadership of the opposition. Chirac is a man who will sell his shirt and his soul to whoever can get him into the Elysée palace. If that were to be the

Russians, this rooster would paint his feathers red without hesitation.

In the immediate weeks ahead, Chirac's bid for reelection to the Paris office will be challenged by a relative newcomer on the French political scene. This newcomer, whose influence far outweighs the attention he receives from the national press and media, is Jacques Cheminade, secretary-general of the European Labor Party (POE) in France.

An associate of the American political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Cheminade is positioning himself as the new de Gaulle for the period of crisis now facing France, the leader who stands above the squabbles of petty politicians. The comparison to de Gaulle is readily understood in France, where people vividly remember the general's bid to restore France to its world leadership role, following the disasters of Vichy and the Fourth Republic.

Cheminade, a former candidate for the French presidency and a veteran of the French diplomatic corps, has released two statements strongly condemning French opposition leaders for their failure to provide guidance to the nation on the issue of the Malvinas crisis. Excerpts from both statements follow.

As the first English bombs drop on the Malvinas, there has yet to be one single French leader to condemn the colonial expedition of Mrs. Thatcher. Our submission has encouraged military aggression against Third World countries, and furthermore delivers Latin America to Soviet influences. The Socialist government has re-established an "Entente cordiale" with the monetarist extreme rightist clique of the City of London, and the Opposition follows in its footsteps. I am ashamed of its blindness and pettiness.

How shocking it is to see this bidding in favor of policies leading the world to war! How can [the Paris daily] *le Figaro* write that "British law is our law, whatever might happen"? How can a whole class of politicians be struck with moral idiocy?

Without dealing with the obvious case of old imperial hands hobnobbing with London, I have sought a response from the politicians worthy of esteem who are my allies in the Opposition. All have failed in the decisive moment, because they have degraded themselves in permitting the political debate to be reduced to dogmas, to tags, and sectoral demands. Having lost within France itself the understanding of the policies necessary for the salvation of the Nation-State, how could they possibly now understand a more elevated challenge, that of world peace?

Since May 10 the strategy of the Opposition leaders has been, effectively, to pour oil on the fire of all sectoral demands: those of the white collar workers, truckers, doctors, peasants, and small- and medium-size business-

es.

face of a Socialist policy which has married indecisiveness and incompetence. But to pretend to build an opposition by adding them up leads to a Poujadism which the laws of the Republic deeply oppose. [Poujade was a famed 1950s leader of the petit bourgeoisie, and the term "poujadiste" has come to mean any anarchistic, violent, me-first, interest group activism—ed.] To "Socialism" encouraging the self-expression of all the socio-professional categories and playing one against the other, the Opposition only counterposes "liberal" or "neo-liberal" projects which would accentuate the economic crisis and the disintegration of the institutions, as the experience of the Reagan administration demonstrates. The circle around [former President] Giscard d'Estaing and [Paris Mayor Jacques] Chirac thinks nonetheless that it will be electorally rewarding to counterpose these projects to Socialism, no doubt without realizing the consequences of their actions.

Over the past several weeks, the prospect of a vacuum of power has aggravated everyone's cynical agitation: each is trying to position himself for the future, none is proposing a viable program. [Interior Minister] Defferre and [Justice Minister] Badinter are jumping at each others' throat; [National Assembly RPR group chief] Labbé demands the departure of the President of the Republic; [Socialist Party head] Joxe attacked [Prime Minister] Mauroy. Through all this, the mind of M. Mitterrand seems lost in some imperial and mystical cloud.

Such pettiness would be simply ridiculous in times of peace, but we today live amid an unprecedented economic crisis, and under threat of terrorism in France and war in the world.

Under these conditions, a Grand Design program of government is necessary. The Malvinas affair proves that the Opposition, as constituted today, cannot offer it. The Opposition seeks to exploit outside initiatives, and is incapable of acting as catalyst, thus it bows to London.

What makes the role of my party, the European Labor Party, so important for the future? The European Labor Party is positioned, with its program for peace through technological growth, to be the pole of reference of a new Republican opposition, which can bring together, above partisan labels, all of the nation's anti-Malthusian forces. . . .

In the name of this Republican project, the POE demands immediately the expulsion of Great Britain from the EC and NATO. A member of NATO must no longer be able to engage others in a colonial adventure outside the sector of intervention of the Atlantic Alliance. . . . Great Britain no longer belongs "in the family" of Republican nations. She has put herself on her own outside of any Community based on that principle. Law must ratify her expulsion.

Upon the occasion of the first anniversary of the Socialist administration of François Mitterrand, May 10, Jacques Cheminade put out a statement calling upon the French to recover the former greatness of their nation as indispensable to world peace and progress:

One year after the defeat of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing the situation in France, in Europe, and in the world has been greatly destabilized. With the imperial expedition of Great Britain in the Malvinas and Israeli strikes against Lebanon, we are on the brink of World War III and still no voice is heard in Europe to face the danger. France acts as the faithful ally of Margaret Thatcher replaying the Suez scenario. . . . The government is doing what I had warned it would do, but the Opposition—the former majority of alleged Gaullists and Giscardians—fight over small issues, thus feeding the corporatist environment and providing no sense of national design on matters of foreign policy and economic program. France is obsessed with its belly button amidst a world going to ashes. . . . Justice Minister Badinter and Interior Minister Defferre have, if with different style, left the nation stripped of its weapons against the terrorism disease. In the meantime the gold and foreign currency reserves of the nation have been plundered by Anglo-American and Swiss financial interests too happy to cash in on their support for Mitterrand. . . . Unem-

ployment increases, the French franc has lost 20 percent of its value against the dollar and the budget deficit has grown from a planned 31 billion francs (6 billion dollars) to 81 billion francs in 1981, 100 in 1982, and 200 billion expected in 1983. The index of industrial production has fallen in all sectors for two months straight.

Afraid of its own misdeed, the government is now calling for a drastic austerity policy and decrease in wages to be replaced with "quality of life" gimmicks. . . . Confronted with such a challenge the Gaullists and Giscardians opposition leaders have learned but little. Chirac proclaims himself the heir of Reaganomics at a time when it has been a proven failure in the United States, Giscard d'Estaing lets his advisers call for a 'new liberalism' Based on the aggregation of individual wills . . . Chirac and Giscard have made no declarations against the British threats in the Malvinas and their lieutenants have highly praised Britain. Under those circumstances, I am committed to bring back reason—the policies of reason—to my fellow citizens. My party the POE is the pole of reference for all anti-Malthusian forces committed to reestablish economic growth and cultural morality. I am proposing a four-point program, similar to that of Lyndon LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee in the United States, and in coordination with him will educate my fellow citizens. . . ."

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