

PROFILE: Jean-Baptiste Doumeng

France's 'red millionaire' advocates the partition of Chad

by Joelle Leconte

"Why not give a part of Chad to Libya and the rest to the Central African Republic?" proposed "red" millionaire Jean-Baptiste Doumeng on the plane flying back from Congo-Brazzaville to Paris. "Qaddafi is not mad," said Doumeng, who therefore doubts that "Libya has any hegemonic designs on Africa."

Doumeng did not make such proposals merely because he chairs an oil-trading company dealing in Libyan oil. Jean-Baptiste Doumeng is the Armand Hammer of France, who has built a fortune on both trade and political good offices between East and West.

Doumeng proposed on June 1982 a kind of decoupling of the French currency from the dollar. "Our money must be protected from the forces of the world market," he wrote in *Le Monde*, "essentially from the dollar." The solution he proposed was first to establish a two-tier monetary system with 1) a convertible franc to be used in international exchanges, possibly based on gold, and held at parity to the other currencies; and 2) a domestic franc, non-convertible, whose interests and parity to the convertible franc would be fixed by parliament. These proposals were close to those issued by Jean Riboud, who is head of the Schlumberger multinational and an old Socialist pal and advisor of President

Mitterrand. Riboud's Socialist Party faction, CERES, has for months been pushing for an isolationist policy, and an eastward orientation of French trade and diplomacy.

A boost from Moscow

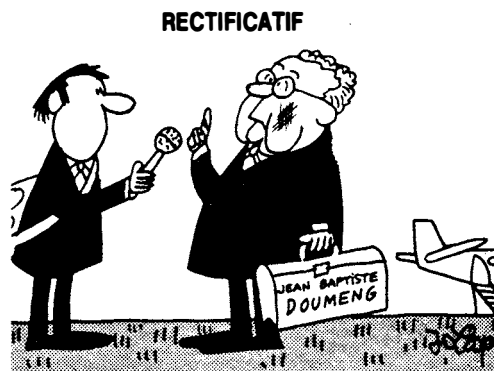
Born in 1919, Doumeng entered the French Resistance in 1943 under communist general Alamichel. In 1945 he began a trade-union career and became director of the Co-operative Agricole et Vinicole of Longages as well as a Communist Party member.

But his career really took off in 1952, when he attended a major economic conference in Moscow. There he met with the director of the Soviet bank BCEN in France, Mr. Hilsum, and thus began his lucrative East-West grain export-import business, for which he now has a near-monopoly in France. Doumeng is chairman of a food-products company called Interagra, as well as the SOCOPA meat-producer cooperative. The Doumeng empire also includes IPI-Trade International, and Sica-vins (Comptoir Agricole Francqis). He has been involved in the recent French trade deals with Vietnam.

Doumeng has been nominated by the Mitterrand government to sit on the board of COFACE, the French state company which covers foreign trade risks. Last year three-quarters of the losses covered by COFACE were from East bloc countries.

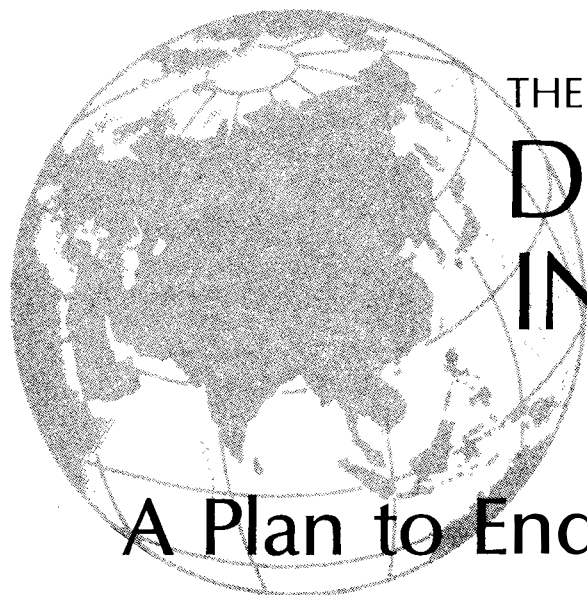
During the Giscard d'Estaing regime Doumeng played an important role as semi-official East-West intermediary. When Giscard flew to Warsaw to meet Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in January 1980, as East-West relations were on the rocks following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he traveled on board the private plane of Jean-Baptiste Doumeng. The trip was organized by Giscard's "Eastern connections"—international lawyer Samuel Pizar and Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski.

Doumeng, like Armand Hammer, has long-standing involvement in Africa. For many years he has been trying to replace the ELF-ERAP company in the trading of Gabonese oil; very recently he was in Mali signing a contract with the Mali government for the construction of a maintenance base at an airstrip for heavy carriers, being built 160 kilometers from the capital Bamako, very probably for Soviet use.



Je n'ai jamais dit qu'il fallait donner le nord du Tchad à Kadhafi, j'ai dit qu'il fallait lui vendre !

Correction: "I never said one had to give northern Chad to Qaddafi; I said we should sell it to him." Canard Enchaîné



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Thursday, September 15

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2 P.M.-4 P.M.

World Stability and Global

Development: The U.S. Role in Indian and Pacific Ocean Basin Development

Speaker: **Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.**,
Founder, *EIR*; Chairman, Advisory
Board, National Democratic Policy
Committee

4 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

The Strategic Parameters of Indian and Pacific Ocean Basin Development

7 P.M.-10 P.M.

Great Projects for Indian and Pacific Ocean Development

Speakers: **Uwe Parpart**, Research
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Dr. Steven Bardwell, Editor, *Fusion*
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In late October President Ronald Reagan will be making an extended visit to Asia, including the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Korea and Japan. The President will visit a region spanning the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean Basins, where almost two-thirds of the world's population lives. The region includes some of the fastest-growing economies in the world, economies that have continued to grow even under conditions of world depression, and is strategically vital to the security of the United States and the world. This is a region that many people believe will be the new economic and strategic center for the world in the next century.

It is vital that the United States approaches the Indian Ocean/Pacific Ocean Basin area with a coherent policy: a comprehensive strategy for stability and economic development. The *Executive Intelligence Review* will present such a strategy at this conference.

EIR founder, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who has just returned from a tour of India, Thailand, and Japan where he had extensive discussions with political and economic leaders from those nations, will present the key concepts which should guide American policy for the future. The conference will present for discussion detailed plans for large-scale infrastructure development projects, including a new canal across the Kra Isthmus of Thailand, a second Panama canal, and large-scale riparian water-control projects for South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China.