
FRANCE

D-Day celebrated by call for beam weapons

by Laurent Rosenfeld

"Solidarity with the United States for the defense of freedom and peace" was the theme of the national congress held in Paris March 30 by the France-U.S.A. Association, the first of a series of events to commemorate the U.S. landing June 6, 1944 on the coast of Normandy, which led to the Liberation and the Allied victory in World War II.

Addressing 300 delegates from all over France, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, president of the Action Committee of the Resistance and a founding member of the Comité France et son Armée (France and its Army Committee) along with Lyndon LaRouche's collaborators in France, evoked the heroism of the Resistance forces under Gen. Charles de Gaulle's leadership who prepared the ground for the "Overlord" operation.

"The survival of the Free World and that of the oppressed nations in 1984 depends on close collaboration between Europe and the United States for the implementation, as rapidly as possible, of a new strategy. The new strategy defined by President Reagan on March 23 of last year, is bringing us hope," she said, referring to the commitment to develop advanced antiballistic-missile defenses.

Mutually Assured Survival

"For the first time in 30 years, the President's firm statement allows us to speak of 'mutually assured survival' and no longer of 'mutual destruction.' France has been very slow in understanding this historic appeal, and, as far as I am concerned, and as far as a handful of friends and experts are concerned, who rallied to this doctrine at once, I welcome the recent declarations of some French political leaders, like President Mitterrand, who spoke of an armed satellite to be placed in orbit, or [Gaullist RPR leader] Jacques Chirac, who alluded to new defensive weapons for Europe. . . . Defense today is the key to salvation. . . .

"So, as the Resistance is calling us, let us thank once more our friends and allies of the great American Republic, for having shown us the way to security, progress, and peace. . . . It is with renewed affection and confidence that we will greet President Reagan on June 6, when he will stand at the graves of his dear boys who in such great number fell on the cliffs of Normandy so that freedom could survive."

General Delaunay, former Chief of Staff, warned that the

Soviets might be "in a position to make a technological breakthrough in the field of beam weapons," a field "capable of completely changing our military strategy." Europe must complete its nuclear armament with beam weapons, he said, calling for a new "spirit of defense" in the West.

The speakers stressed the ties between France and the United States since the War of Independence, and the Soviet danger today, psychological as well as military, through manipulation of the "pacifist" and "neutralist" movements in the West. "The moral element which is represented by the mutual agreement between our two countries is of an exceptional weight and value when danger hovers over our peoples," de Gaulle was quoted.

Claude Pitous, a leader of the Force Ouvrière union federation, pointed to the "demobilization" of the citizens of the West today, who "do not ask themselves what should be done to save the Free World." He warned that if broad solutions are not found to the global economic crisis, it will lead to the emergence of fascist regimes, as in the 1930s.

A message to the meeting came from Chirac, who is also mayor of Paris and honorary president of France-U.S.A. for the Paris region. He declared that Paris is the symbol of Franco-American friendship, pointing to the statue of Benjamin Franklin and General Patton Square, and stressed that Atlantic solidarity must buckle down to the task of "building a new international order, notably in economic matters."

Laser weapons: France is in the race

"France has been working on power lasers for 15 to 20 years," stated Henri Martre, chairman of the major defense company Aerospatiale and former delegate general to weaponry for the French Defense Ministry, on March 28. According to Martre,

the effects produced by beam weapons. This seems to be the first public revelation about tests of such weapons on ballistic missiles: the United States had distributed pictures about the disabling of sidewinder anti-aircraft missiles, but nothing ever went public about testing beams on IRBMs, ICBMs, or SLBMs.

Le Figaro of March 29 quoted an unnamed French expert: "It is no doubt possible for France to develop a laser within four years able to destroy a satellite in a lower or medium orbit." According to Martre, France has known for 10 years that the Soviets and the Americans were secretly working on anti-missile defenses based on directed-energy beams and has therefore started to work on that around the same period.

Given that President Mitterrand has called for a European space station for beam weapons, and has increased accordingly the budget of the French space agency, the government is clearly going in the direction of making such systems operational. But it does not have a specific budgetary allocation for them yet. The need for a crash development program was stressed by Lyndon LaRouche and others at a March 23-24 conference in Paris sponsored by *EIR* and the Fusion Energy Foundation on beam-weapons defense.