

Report from Paris by P. O. E.

The long arm of Longo Mai

After a corrupt French court protects the Alpine commune, West Germany's top terrorist lawyer takes their case.

In early February, a bizarre French court decision was handed down in a suit brought by Longo Mai, a back-to-the-land movement in the Alps which had been described as a logistical support structure for European terrorism with links to East bloc intelligence. Although any honest anti-terrorist official will agree with that description, the Paris court convicted several French publications of libel for having said it, including the weekly *Nouvelle Solidarité*. The court's action confirmed a third assessment for which *Nouvelle Solidarité* was condemned: that Longo Mai has high-level protection.

The plot thickened at the end of March in West Germany, when the law office of Hans-Heinz Heldmann, defender of Europe's most notorious terrorist groups, the Baader-Meinhof/Red Army Fraction (RAF), took Longo Mai's case against charges of terrorist activities by *EIR*. It was the second time in six months that this office was engaged in legal effort against *EIR*. Heldmann had been the attorney for individuals from the RAF support environment who had profiled *EIR* editor Lyndon LaRouche's security arrangements.

In the 1970s, when Heldmann was defending Andreas Baader of the RAF after lawyer Klaus Croissant and others were removed and prosecuted for aiding the terrorists, Longo Mai chief Remi Perrot was speaking at meetings in Paris against "political repression in West Germany."

Longo Mai was founded 10 years

ago and, from a center in Basel, Switzerland, created farm-communes throughout the Alpine region, covering Italy, France, Germany, and Carinthia in Austria. Grazing rights for their sheep shift over frontiers from valley to mountains with the changing seasons. Above all, they are suspected of being a logistical facility for moving money, weapons, vehicles, and fugitives across various borders.

For example, Longo Mai has been under surveillance in connection with the assassination of German industrialist Hans-Martin Schleyer, found dead in Strasbourg in October 1977. Longo Mai members were crisscrossing the Dreiecke, the region of the three borders between France, Switzerland, and West Germany, with money and vehicles, while Christian Klar and other RAF terrorists were trying to escape in that region.

Longo Mai came into the limelight in February 1983 when French secret service (DST) Colonel Nut was found murdered near the Longo Mai farm at Forcalquier. Notes found on his person indicated that he was investigating Longo Mai in the framework of the "Bulgarian connection." In the same period, France's RG (Renseignements Généraux) intelligence service reported that the Soviet consul and other Soviet personnel had visited the Forcalquier farm. Some of the founders of Longo Mai have spent time in East Germany or other East bloc countries.

About the high-level protection there is no question. Aside from

Switzerland, where Longo Mai has been strangely tolerated and prosperous—some say it was founded under the guidance of a retired Swiss army officer—in France it is backed by the Socialist Party, especially by two of its leaders: Environment Minister Hugues Bouchardeau, whose son François Bouchardeau is president of Longo Mai, and Claude Bourdet.

Old Claude Bourdet is an important man in the terrorist infrastructure in France. This includes the Trotskyist-Fourth International component of the old Communist International, deeply infiltrated into the present Socialist government. Its most telltale connection may be the Association pour le Droit à l'Information, which publishes the *Bulletin d'Information sur l'Action Clandestine*, the French equivalent of *CounterSpy*—i.e., the intelligence bureau of the terrorist scene. Régis Debray, crony of Latin American terrorists, was the chairman of the board before he joined the French President's staff; Bourdet is a board member.

Attorney Heldmann's repeat engagement against *EIR* has raised eyebrows among specialists monitoring the deployment of the Soviets' Middle East and European terrorist assets against LaRouche. According to West Germany's Federal Criminal Bureau (BKA), several top RAF terrorists, including the assassin of banker Jürgen Ponto, Suzanne Albrecht, are in Syria, possibly renewing efforts to link West German terrorism back into the Soviet-Syrian-run PFLP, Libyan, Abu Nidal, and Iranian groups.

At the February Paris trial was Soviet journalist Alexander Sabov of *Literaturnaya Gazeta* who was caught by police illegally taping the proceedings. Sabov then showed up at the March 23-24 Paris conference on beam weapons to monitor *EIR* and LaRouche (see page 35).