

# Two new national parties emerge in Europarlament election campaign

by Muriel Mirak

Of all the elections that regularly punctuate the European political scene, the least significant and least interesting are generally the European elections themselves, the continent-wide race which elects representatives from each nation to sit in the European Parliament in Strassburg. Part of the boredom attached to these elections derives from the fact that the institution, itself of recent birth, is relatively impotent. Despite energetic attempts to alter this on the part of "Europeans" and "regionalists," Europe is still run by national governments of sovereign states. Thus, the Strassburg Parliament in effect is little more than a club of aspirant oligarchs, nostalgically seeking the institutional means to return the continent to rule by feudal bodies that predated the creation of the modern nation-state. European Parliamentary elections, therefore, have been mainly the battle-ground for aristocratic families, like the Hapsburgs, to fight for imperial preeminence.

This time around, things have changed.

This time, the European election fight has been transformed into a battleground of ideas and the population, which usually barely notices the campaign at all, has jumped into the fray.

The reasons for this lie in the near panic that has broken out among Europe's national populations, panic engendered by the undeniable threat of Soviet advances into the old continent, being prepared by an unprecedented economic breakdown crisis and consequent outbreak of social chaos. Europe's industrial heartland, stretching from the Ruhr region of West Germany into Lorraine in France, has been dismantled piece by piece according to the dictates of the Davignon Plan, named after the infamous EEC Commissioner Count Davignon. Steel workers, manipulated in their rage and frustration by cynical labor leaders working with Moscow, have emptied the near-idle factories and gone to the streets on strike, while management, fully complicit in the deal, has proceeded to effect lockouts throughout the sector. Farmers are gathering in city centers with their tractors and carts, hurling tomatoes at "the politicians" who have overseen the destruction of Europe's agricultural productive potential. Bankers and stockbrokers are shuddering over the collapse of certain U.S. banks, once considered invulnera-

ble, and the normal, usually faceless crowd of citizens cringes in fear.

As a result of this continent-wide social upheaval, citizens are desperately seeking new ideas and new institutions to replace those which have shown themselves to be morally and intellectually bankrupt. They look at the old, "traditional" parties, and shudder in disgust. Thus, they turn to the younger parties, some on the scene for the first time, and carefully examine their programs and personalities. Among the plethora of such new formations is the European Labor Party, the organization founded on the ideas of U.S. presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche. The EAP (Europäische Arbeiterpartei) and the POE (Parti Ouvrier Européen), which are running full slates of 81 candidates in both West Germany and France, are catalyzing a process of political discussion and activation that is quite unlike anything ever seen before.

## The competition: a dismal show

To grasp the dynamic that the EAP and POE campaigns have unleashed, one has to appreciate the dismal show that its competitors have put together. In the Federal Republic of Germany, which is both the economic and the political swing factor of Europe, the "traditional" parties are facing the very real threat of Soviet aggression and war with the same emotional fortitude and integrity that a new-born puppy has when faced with a whip-wielding tyrant. The CDU of Chancellor Helmut Kohl is preaching the historically condemned line of Chamberlain, singing praises to "good relations with the East." The newly elected federal president, von Weizsäcker, representing the Christian Democratic leadership line, announced that he will be "president of all Germans," thus appealing to dreams of a reunified Germany, of the sort the Soviets are also contemplating.

The FDP (Liberal Party) of Mr. Kohl's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is leading the pack of appeasers, despite the fact that Genscher's own recent trip to Moscow won him nothing but rejection and abuse. The party has won such contempt for its treacherous behavior in its past coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD) and its current licking of the Soviet boot, that it is dwindling away to nothing, and

may very well not even reach the minimum required to be represented in the European Parliament. The SPD is outdoing the CDU and FDP together in its foreign policy, by having organized a series of joint conferences with the East German SED party, leading, many think, to an organic collaborative relationship between the two. In addition, the SPD has encouraged its trade union representatives, who control the labor movement, to coordinate strike actions with the Soviets, and, calling for a 35-hour work week, have crippled the nation's industry, playing into the hands of Moscow. Every one of these parties is in agreement in calling for a stop to the deployment of Euromissiles on BRD soil, claiming that such a gesture might cajole the war-ready Soviets to a friendly negotiating table.

Bringing up the rear of this collection of terrified little men (when not witting Soviet agents) is the motley formation known as the Green Party. Financed and politically steered directly from East Berlin and Moscow, this party was catapulted into public office in the last elections, and combines pleas to "save the German forests from pollution" with terrorist attacks against American military installations, all in the name of "peace."

The campaign paraphernalia of the parties now present in the German national parliament sounds a fitting accompaniment to their strategic and economic policy outlooks. Instead of facing the burning issues uppermost in the minds of the citizenry, they are each trying to anesthetize the public with bland slogans and cute public relations tricks built on the vague notion of "Europe." Thus, the CDU has organized what little campaign it has around the slogan "With us for Europe," and has decked out a "European ship" as a campaign vehicle. Traveling from town to town by way of rivers and canals, the *Europaschiff* ran aground in Karlsruhe, thus putting an inglorious end to an embarrassingly feeble trick. The FDP, with its slogan "We are breaking ground for Europe," has adopted the train as its symbol and has packed off its leading candidates on what was to be a whistle-stop tour. Predictably, as the train pulled into one Ruhr station, there was no one there to greet them. Since then, the FDP-Express has run out of steam. And the SPD, proclaiming the "self-assertion of Europe," has organized its campaign events in the form of a traveling circus.

It is not hard to understand why so many former party members are jumping ship, or train, as the case may be.

Moving aggressively into this political vacuum, the EAP, led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, has launched a drive to build new institutions around concrete policies to bring the Federal Republic of Germany and the rest of Europe out of the crisis. The primary focus of the campaign, which is being run nationwide through a movement of candidates running for European as well as local offices, has been the need to rebuild a viable alliance between the FRG and America. This alliance, to be institutionalized in the newly formed Schiller Institute

policy think-tank, is founded on the sacrosanct principle that Europe is and must be an alliance of sovereign nation-states, committed to the republican idea of progress out of which Western civilization was born. It is an alliance dedicated to preserving these values from the hideous ideology of pan-Slavism and Mother Russia, and therefore demanding that the full weight of Western strategic might be poised ready to defend it.

### **'Beam weapons to defend the West'**

The EAP campaign accordingly has taken as its centerpiece the Strategic Defense Initiative of President Reagan, based on the beam-weapons defense program originally conceptualized and articulated by Lyndon LaRouche. Not "Peace without weapons," as the peacenik Greens advertise, but "No decoupling from America" and "Beam weapons to defend the West" are the slogans bedecking the electoral posters of the EAP which feature an artist's conception of a laser weapon in action. To educate the population, which has been hit by a barrage of pacifist propaganda on the evils of "space wars," the EAP has taken the beam weapon to the streets, organizing rallies in city centers around a gigantic model of a beam weapon, whose flickering lights simulate the laser

## ***Le Monde* covers campaign of the POE's Cheminade**

*The French newspaper of record Le Monde ran the following coverage of the election slate of the French Labor Party (Parti Ouvrier Européen, POE) in its June 2-3 issue. Reporting on a press conference held by POE Secretary General Jacques Cheminade to discuss the slate, the daily titled its article "Mr. Cheminade's References."*

Under the joint intellectual aegis of Charles de Gaulle, Lazare Carnot, Jean Jaures, and Rabelais, the Parti Ouvrier Européen is vying to take over the European Community's Parliament in Strasbourg. Modestly. The POE's secretary general and head of the slate, Mr. Jacques Cheminade, made it known on June 1 at the Paris headquarters of his movement that ballots and candidates' programs would only be offered to voters in Paris and eight departments. [there are 96 departments in all of France] . . . The goals are modest, too, as is the POE's membership: some 500, says Mr. Cheminade, and 30-odd functionaries who live (poorly) to serve a multifaceted cause which has made the POE known even before it expressed directly political designs.

principle. Party events, organized in dozens of towns, from Ludwigshafen to Hannover, from Munich and Stuttgart to Düsseldorf, have featured video tapes of Helga Zepp-LaRouche in which the lead candidate outlines the nature of strategic imparity in Europe and how beam weapons defense systems can open up an era of peace, by rendering nuclear armaments obsolete.

Accompanying the campaign for directed-energy weapons systems is the EAP's polemic against the appeasers, who would "decouple" Western Europe from the United States, making it easy prey for the Warsaw Pact forces. Not only has the Zepp-LaRouche campaign circulated video tapes in campaign forums addressing the decoupling issue, but its campaign volunteers and candidates have taken the friends of Henry Kissinger in the decoupling camp, head on. Thus, when SPD leader Willy Brandt appeared at a public forum in the Ruhr region, EAP candidate Barbara Marienfeld boldly challenged him on his policy of appeasement to the East. Brandt responded not with words but with uncontrolled violence, physically assaulting the candidate and her campaign workers. When another SPD appeaser, Holger Börner, current prime minister of the Hesse parliament, was confronted by EAP candidates and asked, "Do you still speak German,"

he followed in Brandt's footsteps, violently tearing sandwich-boards off their necks and urging police to loose their dogs against the campaigners. As both outrageous incidents showed, the questions had hit an Achilles heel, bringing to light the truth of the SPD's secret deals with East Germany and the Russians. The impact of these two events was magnified when the national press, including the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel*, featured reports of the uncontrolled reactions of both SPD party bosses.

But the profoundest impact on the West German population has been produced by the nationally televised appearances of Helga Zepp-LaRouche herself. Allotted four two-and-a-half minute spots, the lead candidate addressed the strategic danger head-on, denouncing the capitulationist postures of all the parties currently represented in the Bonn parliament. Most incisive in her prime-time appearances was her direct appeal to the German population, to correct the underlying weakness of the nation, by building a truly sovereign republic, a republic organized around the concept of German national identity of the great poet, dramatist and historian Friedrich Schiller. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche ended her message by announcing the formation of the Schiller Institute and asked the television viewers to join her to rebuild the

Instruments for that cause are associations affiliated with the POE. They are: the Fusion Energy Foundation, which campaigns for directed energy weapons (lasers); The Anti-Drug Coalition, whose name tells the aims; The Club of Life, which presents itself as something of an anti-Club of Rome, opposed to any Malthusianism and a genuine defender of the Third World. . . .

Ideas and literary as well as historical and philosophical references are not in undersupply with Mr. Cheminade, a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), 42, and an off-duty civil servant from the Economics Ministry. He borrows these ideas from the "Republican scientist" Carnot; the much-bowdlerized design of General de Gaulle; from Jaures, the only Socialist "with broad ideas" and the only one who "knew Leibniz and the pre-Socratic philosophers"; from Rabelais; and finally, "perhaps even more fundamental than the rest," the model for the "republican artist" Gottfried Leibniz? Precisely. Mr. Cheminade knows him too. . . . Mr. Cheminade is something of a Colbertian, on top of everything. He places the famous minister of Louis XIV beside those who "understood the epistemological foundations of France."

About today's and tomorrow's Europe? Mr. Cheminade and his friends and perhaps tomorrow his voters, if there be some, want to save her, to lift her out of the three crises in which she is mired: 1) strategic and military (an "immediate

Russian threat that remains unperceived if not strongly favored"); 2) economic and financial (because, Cheminade says, of rampant Malthusianism and the role of the International Monetary Fund); and 3) moral and intellectual decay.

The threat to youth posed by the consumption of dangerous drugs is one clear sign of the decay, the POE thinks. But the President of the [French] Republic, if we believe Mr. Cheminade, also has his own "intellectual" drugs, which we hope are soft ones: the post-industrial and cybernetic ideas of Messrs. Jean Riboud, Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, Jacques Attali, and Samuel Pizar.

On election day June 17, Mr. Cheminade will only spend 400,000 to 450,000 francs. . . . In Paris and the eight departments in which the POE will compete, Mr. Cheminade's voters will certainly be less numerous than those of Mrs [Simone] Veil, on whom he says nothing "because you don't shoot at sacred cows." Perhaps they will also be less numerous than the pages written by the prolific authors of Mr. Cheminade's references. Let them know, however, that they are not alone. The POE's program states: "We are assembling an international candidates' movement which, around our conceptions, unites thousands of men and women of Europe and America. Our American leader, Mr. Lyndon LaRouche . . . is presently re-creating, across the Atlantic, the best of the American System, that of Washington and Lincoln, and the Roosevelt of the 1938-43 period."

alliance, in the tradition of Lafayette and Franklin, with the America of the Founding Fathers. The response to the short, but powerful television appearances, coupled with a major advertising campaign for the Schiller Institute in mass dailies like the *Bild Zeitung*, has fully vindicated the EAP's conviction that the commitment of the German people, despite its political leaders' sellouts, lies firmly with the West and with a strong alliance to the United States. Calls poured into EAP offices following the broadcasts and newspaper ads, of people eager to join the Institute or the EAP or both. Thousands of citizens in market places have lined up to sign petitions for the Institute and have begun to organize for the founding conference, scheduled in Wiesbaden one week after the election.

### France: the supranationalist threat

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's call to build a sovereign nation in Germany on the basis of "Schiller Yes, Bismarck No" has flown in the face of all those oligarchical circles who propose an imperial reorganization of Europe, whereby nation-states would be reduced to helpless satraps of a supranational ruling body. Even in France, where the Gaullist republican tradition still lives strong in the minds of the population, such imperial designs have been insinuated into the political debate. Leading political spokesmen, who formerly staked their claims to represent France on at least a verbal commitment to the independence and strength of France as a nation, have capitulated to the oligarchical push towards supranationalism. Thus President François Mitterrand in early June voiced his support for the "Spinelli Plan," a project drawn up by the Italian Communist member of the European Parliament, which calls for sweeping changes in the Strassburg statutes, so as to allow for broader powers over national governments. And former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing issued a call for the election, by direct, popular vote, of a European president, beginning in 1989, ironically, exactly 200 years after the outbreak of the French Revolution.

Such blatant flirtation with supranationalism on the part of the French elites only serves to underscore the extent to which the fabric of the national institutions, created by de Gaulle, have been unraveled by economic pressures and riotous anarchy. A further indication of institutional erosion lies in the inordinate number, 14 in all, of electoral slates vying for the European parliamentary seats. Besides the lists of the "traditional parties," like the ruling Socialist Party, led by Lionel Jospin, and its partner the Communist Party, led by Georges Marchais, there is the main opposition list of the UDF and RPR headed up by Simone Veil, supported by Jacques Chirac.

But neither majority parties nor the opposition are united within their own ranks; rather, each party is being challenged by smaller formations. Thus on the extreme left, there are two Trotskyist lists along with a group of former socialists in

the split-party PSU, and there are two environmentalist lists, each competing for the radical-ecologist vote—and for the funds channeled from East Germany through the West German Green Party. On the other side of the political barricades is a line-up of ad hoc special-interest groups improvised into would-be parties. There is the "European Initiative" made up of academics and professionals, representing various European associations; the "Initiative 84," which includes young managers and technocrats; the "UTILE" list of "independent workers;" the populist "Réussir l'Europe" list of François Gomez; and so forth. Although many of these ostensibly independent slates pretend to challenge the majority and opposition factions, yet it is an open secret that they are riding piggyback on the latter, and amply reaching into their political daddies' hip pocket for funds. What is significant in this *ménage* is that the large national parties, particularly those in the ruling PCF-PSF coalition, are terrified that they will receive a whopping defeat at the polls, and are therefore trying to control the damage by providing safety valves in those "left opposition" groups whom they would politically control regardless. Much the same kind of reasoning explains the plethora of parties outside the government coalition, on the "right."

### Le Pen's fascism

There are only two parties in the election which present a significant exception to this rule. One is the extreme right, fascist party led by demagogue Jean-Marie Le Pen. Le Pen, who is a fascist in the historically documented sense of the term, has picked up the racist pitch of the European fascists of the '20s and '30s, and demands the expulsion of all foreign workers from France. Playing on the impotent rage of the French population, exacerbated by rising unemployment and inflation, Le Pen has whipped up a populist movement which aims at netting 10% of the vote, so as to establish itself in the big league. Significantly, this populist-anarchist list, which combines the violence of Mussolini's squadristi with the ideology of an aspirant Hitler, is being covertly supported by the Communist Party, thus replicating nationally the ominous Nazi-Communist alliance which has come to the surface under the leadership of Andropov and Chernenko.

The only non-governing party which is neither a synthetic decoy, nor an insurgent operation, is the POE, which has mounted a very credible opposition, both to the bankrupt majority and opposition parties, and to the dangerous Le Pen movement. Although certain complicit press organs have attempted to place the POE list led by Jacques Cheminade on the "far right," the party's position as the legitimate heir to the great republican tradition of Lazare Carnot, Charles de Gaulle, Jaures, and Colbert has been firmly established in a series of well-attended press conferences and campaign events of the lead candidate.

As soon as the POE announced its slate on June 1, its

Paris headquarters was bombarded with calls from press organs anxious to interview Cheminade. The reasons for the immediate interest—and coverage—by the media are manifold. First and foremost is the impact that Lyndon LaRouche's nationally televised presidential campaign appearances have had in the United States and, by reflex, in Europe. Since Cheminade's POE is linked to the LaRouche candidates' movement very explicitly, it has become clear even to the press that the French campaign and the presidential race in the United States are part of the same process, whose outcome will shape the course of future history. Thus it is that virtually every article covering the Cheminade-led slate has identified it as "an initiative of the American politician Lyndon LaRouche." Secondly, the POE captured public attention in the brief but fiercely fought election campaign held in late May in Thionville. The election, which was called again, due to irregularities encountered in the previous election, pitted the relatively small POE against the Communist Party (PCF), which runs the local mayor. The POE opened its campaign in the depressed steel region of Thionville with a biting polemic against the EEC Commissioner Davignon and his ally in the French government, Minister Delors. "Let's produce steel and melt down Delors" was the slogan that became famous among unemployed steel workers and their families who responded with enthusiasm and hope to the POE's program for rebuilding the French and German steel industry.

The PCF, challenged programmatically for the first time among its constituency of working men and women, resorted to goon tactics and harassment. The mayor himself telephoned POE candidates recruited locally, to intimidate them into abandoning the slate; local PCF hoodlums organized fascist-like squad actions to raid POE campaign rallies and burn campaign literature. Such awkward tactics boomeranged, as the POE was thrust into the forefront of the political debate, receiving broad and animated coverage. Thus, when Cheminade presented his slate of citizen candidates for the European elections, the press went wild, anticipating an escalation of the Thionville confrontation, this time nationally. What particularly broke the rules of French politics-as-usual was the POE's creation of a candidates' movement in Thionville, a new phenomenon which was the focus of a major article in *Le Matin de Paris*. That such a movement could expand from a small town like Thionville to the entire nation, was the great fear of the major parties.

### Thinking 'bigger than de Gaulle'

Likewise, the PCF and PSF, as well as Gaullists, feared that the programmatic demands articulated in the POE platform threaten current French strategic and economic policy. Cheminade's insistence on "thinking bigger than de Gaulle" to replace the obsolete *force de frappe* national nuclear deterrent with advanced beam weapons technologies and im-

mediately deployable neutron bombs has sent ripples throughout the defense establishment. Col. Marc Geneste, the "father of the N-bomb," has lent his name to Cheminade's campaign, thus endorsing his strategic defense policy.

Early in the campaign, virtually every major French daily has covered the POE; beyond the lead candidate's spot, which the three national television networks must air, all three have taped additional interviews with the controversial Cheminade. Regional radios and papers have filled press conferences, which have taken Cheminade and his co-candidates from Paris to Lyon and Grenoble, from Poitiers to Périgeux, La Rochelle, Charentes, Rouen, Caen, Nantes, Amiens, Rheims, Lille, Dijon, Marseille, Avignon, Bordeaux, Toulouse, and to the seat of the European Parliament, Strassburg. And everywhere the POE campaign teams go, the response is always the same: "Aha, you are the people who created that ruckus in Thionville! You're the ones who stood up to the Communists!" And the candidates' list continues to grow.

Which way the election will go is not totally clear, though some firm predictions can be made. In France the ruling PSF and PCF will take a beating, as punishment for the policies they have implemented nationally, which have led to capital flight, deindustrialization and agricultural collapse. Le Pen, thanks also to the Communist support he enjoys, will probably reach his desired 10% as the expression of an uninformed protest vote. A majority vote will probably be garnered by the official opposition list of Simone Veil, again as a protest vote of those who are not yet ready to swing to the ominous fascist Le Pen. In West Germany, countervailing tendencies in the frightened citizenry make predictions more difficult to formulate; while the fear of war and social dislocation have increased popular discontent with the pusillanimous Kohl government, many citizens correctly fear that the SPD appeasement policy will only lead to Soviet subjugation.

Whatever the formal vote count may be, what will emerge from these elections will be a resounding vote of no-confidence for the policies of appeasement and economic depression now being played out to their tragic end. What will emerge is the formation of two new national parties, the POE and EAP, which have been using the vehicle of the electoral process to educate citizens to the fundamental policy options open to them, and to the LaRoucheian method which has delineated them. Both in France and West Germany, citizens will have been awakened out of the passive role that politics-as-usual had assigned them, to take up the challenge posed by the candidates' movement of 700 EAP candidates led by Zepp-LaRouche and 450 led by Cheminade: to take on the responsibility which the true republic places in the citizen's hands not to follow but to lead. It is with national party organizations, articulated through local and regional chapters, that the POE and EAP will be in a position to take the place of the near-defunct institutions, be they parties or trade unions, in providing leadership to a tottering Europe.