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## Conference report

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# The French opposition's program: monetarism, racialism, colonialism

The Club 89 of Michel Aurillac, an associate of a former interior minister, Prince Michel Poniatowski, has succeeded in getting the right-wing opposition parties of France to endorse a program of monetarism, racialist garbage, and colonialist looting schemes which amount to an outright fascist program. Among the planks enumerated at the second annual convention of Club 89 in early February in Paris:

- It is "perverse" to provide food and other assistance to Third World countries, and "simplistic" to provide them with modern technologies. The developing sector needs "the French language." An extensive program promoting Francophilia is the number-one "international tool" of cooperation.

- It is "morally unjustifiable" for the state, either in France or in other European nations, to provide assistance to individual enterprises or to permit the continued existence of large, state-controlled industrial concerns such as the nuclear sector.

- It is "against the national interest" to tolerate non-French immigrants in French schools, or to let non-French babies benefit from social programs, thus permitting non-French mothers to procreate on French soil.

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and former Prime Minister Pierre Messmer came to express their endorsement of such a program. Former Prime Minister Raymond Barre had a message read in his name because he was hobnobbing with his Swiss friends and such as the Prince von Thurn und Taxis at Davos, Switzerland that weekend.

### What is Club 89?

Club 89 was created in 1981 as a "think tank" for the opposition. Its primary purpose was to halt the influence of Lyndon Larouche's associates in the Parti Ouvrier Européen, led by Jacques Cheminade, especially their influence among supporters of the Gaullist RPR Party headed by Chirac. Circulating slanders and threats, Club 89 moved to prevent Cheminade from speaking at opposition-party meeting, and to prevent collaboration between Cheminade's party and others around such programs as defensive beam-weapons, nuclear energy, and so forth.

Instead, Club 89 introduced the program of France's degenerate, titled oligarchy.

The situation in France today is such that the provincial industrialist or white-collar worker, enraged at the depression policies of François Mitterrand's socialist regime is susceptible to the belief that freedom from socialist-style bureaucratic tangles and regimentation requires adoption of monetarist "free enterprise" policies that will in fact destroy what is left of industrial capacity and scientific capabilities. If Club 89 succeeds, France will be turned into a Pétainist nightmare.

### A racialist policy

"The presence of immigrants markedly exceeds economic needs," states the Club 89 program. It blames immigrants for the fact that France is not yet fully a "post-industrial society." The immigrants are responsible for the lack of modernization in industry, the lack of "small" plants in the countryside, the slowness in converting from "obsolete" heavy industry to light industry.

One is reminded of the prescription of "economist" John Kenneth Galbraith writing in the daily *Les Echos* on Oct. 12, 1984: "France should give up industry. . . . It will never produce the best engineers; it should stick to where it is best, perfume, haute couture, and cuisine."

The Club 89 plan, adopting all the racialist garbage of neo-fascist leader Jean Le Pen, implies the need for violent confrontation between French and non-French by presenting immigrants, a large percentage of them Arabs and Africans, as loiterers, criminals in the streets, the main cause of unemployment, a burden on taxpayers, and less productive than the French. What could be worse than allowing them to proliferate? It proposes a policy of forced repatriation, tighter border control, edicts forbidding the immigration of non-French workers' families, and a cut-off of social-program payments. (Considering the low wage received by this strata of the workforce, this policy would starve Arab babies!) It puts penalties on employers who hire immigrants above a definite limit, proposes a computerized work-card system, and even moots forbidding immigrant youth to enter French schools! Those willing to become French citizens would be required to master the French language, identify patrons of French origin, and adopt French names and patronyms.

The racism is open: It asserts that the difference between French people and non-European immigrants is so great, they are "not analogous."

## Deindustrialization

"The old concept of the '50s, de Gaulle's mixed economy . . . is inefficient because it proposes to use the state to shelter productive activity from competition." Club 89 proposes to kick the crutches out from under the paralyzed economy and let failing industry fend for itself. Chirac devoted his entire speech to attacking those in his party who still hold on to a dirigistic Gaullist economic outlook. From statism "the pendulum can never swing too far," said Chirac. As for Giscard d'Estaing, he donned his most aristocratic facial expression (he always looks as if he is sucking something) to announce that the vocation of France is "away from Colbertism." But the utter degeneration of the French elite was exemplified by aging Gaullist baron Pierre Messmer, remembered for launching the extensive French nuclear development program under President Pompidou in the early 1970s. Messmer nodded and approved all.

In sum, what Club 89 proposes as French national economic policy is the following:

- An end to "morally unjustifiable" state subsidies to particular industries, industrial projects, or exports, including an end to cheap credits and subsidies of interest payments on debts incurred on international markets.
- Denationalization of all banks and industry, including the dismemberment into smaller units of all large industrial concerns in the name of "free competition."
- Total deregulation of the economy, an end to price controls and exchange controls.
- Privatization of social security and health care generally, which will mean cost accounting for health care at all levels, i.e., euthanasia in the short run.
- Creation of part-time labor pools, an end to the monthly minimum wage, etc.

Club 89 proposes that this also be the program for Europe as a whole, that no country be allowed to unfairly support its science and industry.

To further this program, the European Currency Unit is to replace both the dollar and national currencies as the means of denominating international trade and credit transactions—the ECU being the favored instrument of oligarchical European central bankers for financially "decoupling" from the United States.

## A policy of triage

Toward the Third World, Club 89 proposes: "Eurafrique will save Europe from the American-Soviet straightjacket." Eurafrique means that Africa is to be treated as a huge plantation for French and other oligarchical interests. To wit: "For agriculture in the southern hemisphere, food aid is perverse, it reinforces the omnipresence of the state, becoming the feeding state." There is "no universal model for industrialization." The problem so far has been the "primacy given to large and unmanageable projects." If there is devastation today in the Third World, advanced-sector financial struc-

tures are not to blame. Rather, the Third World has too many people and too much state control!

Then, Club 89 proposes Henry Kissinger's "debt for equity" scheme:

- Harsher conditionalities, coupled with repayment of debt in national currencies.
- French equity investments proportional to the purchase of raw materials by France in countries tied to France by global association contracts (i.e., once and future colonies).
- Creation of a bank of industrial investments in the developing sector which would finance small plantation-style projects or runaway shops—"Priority must be given to small units."
- "Break into pieces" the energy industry in the developing sector.

Above all, the French oligarchy suggests that the French language be imposed on Africa in line with "the vocation of the French nation a thousand years hence."

## The defense issue

While in the plenary session, Xavier Deniau spoke of the need for France to have a close alliance with the United States and to participate in the program to develop lasers, his intervention came as a surprise to most participants. Such is not the tone of the written program, much less the content of the defense commission discussion in which this writer participated.

In the program, emphasis is placed on the fact that the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative or beam-weapon program "implies the danger of decoupling of Europe from the United States," actually the Soviet line which ignores President Reagan's repeated public statements to the contrary. Otherwise, the statement says that "perhaps" the SDI will modify present strategy, and "perhaps" the French could participate in the development of ground based—and only ground-based—anti-missile systems, "for it is perhaps less costly to develop systems aiming at the target during re-entry."

So, amid nonsense about informing the private citizen what to do when the Red Army arrives (e.g., where to hide), the program is compelled to nod in the direction of the U.S. SDI, here to stay, like it or not.

In the defense discussion in commission, however, participants were told that the Russians are "realists" who are afraid of war, that Europe and the East are geopolitically tied together, and that France must develop good relations with Russia and the East bloc. This was uttered two days after the murder of Gen. André Audran by Soviet-controlled terrorists and/or outright Soviet spetsnaz (special forces) units.

There was some discontent in the room at these resemblances to Neville Chamberlain, but most participants only applauded the chauvinist, racist, and colonialist resemblances to the regime of Marshal Pétain. But until such time as the French opponents of Mitterrand learn the difference between de Gaulle and Pétain, France will live in ignorance of what being a nation means, on the way to disaster.