

Report from Paris by Vivian Freyre Zoakos and Mark Burdman

France in uproar over Trilaterals

The Trilateral Commission just ended its European conference in the midst of an uproar generated by the European Labor Party.

As the European branch of the Trilateral Commission met behind closed doors in the French Senate Oct. 25-27, they did so in a climate of extraordinary controversy. In the two weeks prior to the meeting, the majority of leading French newspapers and magazines had feature articles either targeting the Commission as an international conspiracy determined to sell out the West to the Soviet Union, or conversely, the articles attempted to defend the Trilateraloids from these charges.

The focus on the Commission was sparked by a two-month mobilization of the European Labor Party (POE), the organization in France based on the program of *EIR* contributing editor Lyndon H. LaRouche. The POE had published and distributed *EIR*'s report on the Commission, including in-depth reports of its involvement in the past three months' "Greenpeace affair," which has been tearing apart France's military and security apparatus.

As the POE's anti-Trilateral offensive had emphasized, it is the Commission (via Greenpeace lawyer Lloyd Cutler) and the Soviet KGB who have coordinated the Greenpeace affair to destroy French institutions.

Hence the enormous controversy surrounding the Commission's secret European summit. The daily *Le Figaro* started off the campaign in September with an article portraying the Trilateral Commission as committed to building up the Soviet Empire, as per the model of Occidental Petrole-

um's Armand Hammer.

On Oct. 23, *Le Canard Enchaîné* published an article concerning the Commission's Paris meeting, targeting in particular the Trilateral choice for next President of France, Raymond Barre. This attack on Barre was mirrored heavily in most of the other press. *Canard* pointed out that, just as the Commission had "created" Jimmy Carter (a particularly hated figure in France), so Barre is hoping it will help hand him the French presidency.

On Oct. 24, the *National Hebdo*, the weekly of the extreme right-wing Front National, published a two-page spread entitled, "Raymond Barre: On the Trilateral Planet." This ran alongside another article targeting the Commission as a pernicious East-West backchannel, reporting on the Lloyd Cutler-Greenpeace connection and concluding with the damning words, "And we understand that Raymond Barre prefers to keep silence on that unhappy Greenpeace affair."

Minute, a French weekly with an estimated 2-3 million readership, emphasized in its lead exposé on the eve of the Trilateral meeting the treason of Trilateral supporter Barre. "The Man of the Soviets," is how *Minute* characterized Barre, noting that, should he become President during the coming years (elections are in 1988), this would lead to the "Finlandization of France."

Headlining one segment, "When Barre Opens His Mouth, It Is the Trilaterals Who Speak," *Minute* wrote,

"It is in the membership of Raymond Barre in the Trilateral that one can find the beginnings of an explanation" for his behavior. "The Bankers' International," is how the magazine identified the Commission. The article also quoted liberally from the POE's journal, *Nouvelle Solidarité*, identifying its reporters Mark Burdman and Yves Messer as "two of the best specialists on the Trilaterals."

These and similar attacks against the Commission—in such publications as the military-technical journal *Trim International*, *Présent*, and others—could not fail to generate a response from the Commission's backers and supporters, namely the French oligarchy.

Accordingly, the Schlumberger family-owned newspaper *Libération* published an attack on the POE and its anti-Trilateral campaign on Oct. 28. It cited the POE as one among several "extreme right" organizations, including the "Belgian neo-fascists" and the "Christian intégrists" which condemn the Trilaterals as "a new plutocracy" of "Jews and freemasons."

In a pathetic attempt to give the Commission some credibility, *Libération* lied that attacks from such right-wing quarters are a switch from the earlier days, when the Commission's main opponent was the Red Brigades.

Libération unabashedly describes the Trilateral Commission as a "coalition of financiers and politicians who wish to rule the world as their trust."

At the conclusion of the Trilaterals' European summit, it was announced that the Commission's European head, Georges Berthoin, will travel to Washington, D.C. in mid-November "to convince the more progressive elements in Congress to combat the growing U.S. budget deficit and, consequently, to fight against the military expenditure level asked for by President Reagan."