

on foreign policy, traditionally considered to be the "special domain" of the President, as well as security policy and economic policy. The delimitation of powers is clear in the constitution in the case of a unified presidency and government. In the present case, this delimitation is more blurred, but can be practically resolved by a minimal consensus on major issues on the part of the President and the prime minister. President Mitterrand, of course, will remain chief of the armed forces and sole guarantor of the nuclear option, although defense policy will be worked on between both the presidency and government.

It is too early to say whether the agreement between the new government and the Elysée (presidential palace) will work. Mitterrand has over 40 years of political life behind him and is known for his versatility in dealing with such situations. If, however, the arrangement (known as *cohabitation* in France) were to break down, this would inevitably lead to early presidential elections and a new round of legislative elections soon after.

Raymond Barre had based his entire campaign on this latter assumption, expecting an early government crisis and presidential elections which would permit him to run for the country's highest office. His relative defeat during the elections March 16 has certainly momentarily neutralized any early attack on his part upon the new government, although it has in no way cooled his ambition.

Barre, a leading member of the Trilateral Commission and an advocate of détente and "East-West convergence" theories—i.e., a global Russian empire—cannot now afford to lose further ground among the conservative electorate which desires stability. Barre is said to hope that the new prime minister will become inextricably stuck in the Lebanese quagmire and hence discredited. This perilous game could turn against him, however, if the new government scores significant successes in any major foreign policy or economic field, such as the fight against terrorism.

A strong military policy will also enhance Chirac's chances to succeed, and thus prepare for his own presidential candidacy in 1988.

As far as the relative electoral success of the right-wing populist National Front is concerned, this will in no way seriously affect the actions of the government. It will be very difficult for the rabble-rousing Jean-Marie le Pen—who polarized nationalist discontent and was used by the Socialist Party to limit the victory of the RPR and UDF—to denounce a "weak government" when the latter includes both R. Pandraud and C. Pasqua.

The French elections thus demonstrate a shift in the French population itself, demanding a fundamental change in French economic and foreign policy. The stakes are high and the new government needs a couple of major successes to overcome the international and domestic obstacles it is already facing.

For the Trilaterals, it's on to Moscow

by Mark Burdman

Leading lights of the Trilateral Commission are reportedly most unhappy about a report that appeared in the Italian magazine *Panorama* on March 9, claiming that the Commission is planning to hold a plenary meeting in late 1986, or in 1987, in Moscow. But certain evidence, available to *EIR*, lends credibility to the *Panorama* report.

The article was written by Rome correspondent Pino Buongiorno. We present segments of his unusual exposé:

"Here in the office of Count Giovanni Auletta Armenise, president of the Banca Italiana dell'Agricoltura, on Tuesday March 11, the 20 Italian members of the Trilateral Commission, first among them Gianni Agnelli [of Fiat], will meet. On the agenda: the general assembly in Madrid, in the middle of May, of the powerful international organization that collects industrialists, financiers, bankers, and politicians from Europe, Japan, and the United States. There are two issues for the important meeting: 'The next phase with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe,' and 'The conditions for partnership in international economic organizations.'"

Buongiorno added that the Trilateral Commission "gained its bad name with the election, in November 1976, of the 'unknown' Jimmy Carter, to the presidency of the United States. Carter was one of the most active members of the Commission. He called into his administration 18 Trilateralists: first of all, as adviser for national security, Zbigniew Brzezinski, exactly the same man who had the idea to create the organization, then supported by the banker, David Rockefeller. Was it not the Trilateral Commission that imposed that administration, many asked themselves?"

Noting that many have considered the Trilaterals a dangerous international conspiracy, Buongiorno published a disclaimer from one leading Trilateral leader in Italy: "'The truth is that the Trilateral Commission is only a place for discussion, of exchange of experiences. The influence we are trying to have is only at the level of public opinion of the leading classes,' says Piero Bassetti, former Christian Democratic parliamentarian, and now chairman of the Union of Chambers of Commerce, one of the first members of the Commission."

Then, the clincher: "'In fact,' Bassetti says, 'we still feel today a certain bureaucratization of the Commission. But, fortunately, the speech of [Soviet leader] Gorbachov at the Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, which relaunches the great planetary issues, security, the use of high technology, the environment, hunger in the world, issues that are Trilateral issues, could allow us to revitalize our ideas.' *It is precisely in Madrid that the idea will be launched of organizing a meeting over coming months in an area 'external' to the Trilateral Commission: probably the Soviet Union* [emphasis added]."

According to one knowledgeable source, the decision for the Trilateral Commission to meet in Moscow, either later this year or in 1987, had already been taken at its 1985 meeting in Tokyo. The decision, this source says, will merely be finalized in Madrid. The key back-channels for the "Moscow Connection" have been provided by the North American members of the Commission. "Meetings have been going on secretly with high-level people in the U.S.S.R.," said the source.

In its summer, 1985 edition, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's *International Affairs* journal lavishly praised the Trilateral Commission, for its opposition to President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

To judge by the West German members of the Trilateral Commission, the "move to the East" is quite believable:

- Trilateral member Theo Sommer, editor-in-chief of the influential *Die Zeit* weekly, issued an analysis in early March, calling for West Germany to shift its economic orientation to helping the Soviet Union achieve the plans announced at the Soviet Party Congress, envisioning a large rise in gross national product over the next 15 years. The March 14 *Die Zeit* followed up Sommer's piece, with a front-page commentary that asserted, "For its attempt to modernize its economy, Moscow has no more reliable partner in the West than Bonn."

- Otto Wolff von Amerongen, head of the German trade and industry federation, during the first days of March, advocated a general expansion of East-West trade deals.

- Kurt Biedenkopf, the new head of the North Rhine-Westphalia Christian Democratic party, has his own private institute in Bonn, the Institute for Science and Social Studies, which is planning to sponsor visits by strategists from the Soviet IMEMO think-tank for joint seminars in Bonn later this year.

- Volker Rühle, one of the leaders of the CDU parliamentary defense fraction in Bonn and a co-thinker of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is planning to visit East Germany for almost a week in May of this year, immediately prior to the May 17-19 Trilateral summit in Madrid.

- Karl Kaiser, head of the German Institute for Foreign Relations in Bonn, is the co-director of the "East-West" task force that will present its findings in Madrid.

French Socialists plot against Tunisia

by L. Colombe et Ahmed Ben Khader

The March 14 issue of *EIR* published an article on Tunisia which contained a few errors and that we mistakenly attributed to two of our regular authors. We publish here the original article as it appeared in the March 10 issue of the French weekly *Nouvelle Solidarité*. Upon its publication, the article provoked immediate political debate in Tunisia. The article was reprinted in five weeklies and dailies, including on March 20 in the daily Tunisian government newspaper, *La Presse*. On March 21, the French dailies *Quotidien de Paris* and *Le Monde* gave prominence to the report of *Nouvelle Solidarité* and reported that the French foreign ministry, still led by Socialist Minister Roland Dumas, had denied as "absurd" the charges of the articles. However, *Le Monde* predicted that M. Eric Rouleau, ambassador in Tunisia, may soon find his job too difficult to pursue any further.

Executive Intelligence Review has been informed by well-placed Western intelligence sources that leading members of the French Socialist Party are plotting the overthrow of Tunisian Prime Minister M'zali, to replace him by a well-known Tunisian political personality closer to the African and North African political line of the French Socialists. According to the same sources, French Ambassador to Tunisia Eric Rouleau would be coordinating the internal and external aspect of the operation. In the last few weeks, half a dozen or perhaps more French special intelligence agents have been dispatched to Tunisia for this operation.

Rouleau is not an ordinary ambassador. Appointed in the early summer of 1985 to the dismay of the Tunisian authorities, Rouleau is better known as a specialist in Palestinian and Libyan affairs than as a friend of Tunisia. His openly displayed pro-Libyan sympathies made his appointment the more provocative, as it happened in the midst of a Libya-Tunisia crisis which led to the expulsion by Libya of thousands of Tunisian workers by the end of August and September of last year. Prior to his appointment, Rouleau had played an important role—while still a journalist for *Le Monde*—in the secret negotiations between the French and Libyan governments on the Chad crisis, and had mediated the summit between François Mitterrand and Muammar Qaddafi in November 1985 on the island of Crete.