

## Report from Paris by Mark Burdman and Claude Albert

### The funny circle around de Benoist

*French court rulings against the slanderers of Helga Zepp-LaRouche expose a strange left-right convergence.*

On May 21 and May 22, courts in France ruled in favor of Helga Zepp-LaRouche and the Parti Ouvrier Européen, the French co-thinker organization to Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's European Labor Party, in legal actions brought against two French publications. The first of the two decisions was taken by the Chamber of Tribunal of Paris, against *La Lettre de Magazine-Hebdo*, for defamation against the plaintiffs.

The second, and more substantive, was taken against the widely circulated weekly *L'Express*, which was obliged, by the 17th Chamber Correctional court, to pay 20,000 French francs in damages, for a mid-1985 article lying that Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche had been born in East Germany, and that, in effect, she was a traitor to the Federal Republic of Germany. The magazine was charged with defamation. The magazine's owner, Britain's Sir Jimmy Goldsmith, was obliged to pay 5,000 francs in fines to the French state, as was the author of the slander, Elie Marcuse.

What has been brought to the surface about the strange coalition behind the slanders of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche and the POE, is quite an amazing story.

It shows total convergence between the so-called left and the so-called right in France. In historical terms, not so ironic: These categories were, in fact, first invented, to designate the seating arrangements in France's National Assembly, during the riotous events of the French Rev-

olution, when the leading elements in both camps, "left" and "right," were both controlled from the same place. In those days, the Anglo-Swiss bankers, ultimately, held the purse-strings. Today, the reader can guess for himself, as we present the evidence.

The left-right convergence centers around a figure well known in France, one Alain de Benoist, the head of the French *Nouvelle Droite*, or "New Right." De Benoist is the *éminence grise* behind two of France's sleazier publications, the periodicals *Eléments* and *Nouvelle Ecole*.

France's New Right has been characterized by Israeli and other researchers into the matter as, alternatively, "fascists," "national-communists," and "Gramsci-ists of the right," the latter after the 1920s' Italian Communist Party leader Antonio Gramsci. The movement's belief structure is founded on fanatical white-supremacist racism, holding, as the Nazis did, that the "superior white race" historically emanates from the mythical island of Thule; this is a combination of what these creatures call "racial mysticism" with "biological realism." They also support, not surprisingly, measures of eugenics, and a geopolitical alliance with the Russians against the Americans, against what one de Benoist co-thinker denounced, in a November 1985 piece, as "the American-occidental sub-culture," and the "Western model."

Before *L'Express* published its slander of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche in mid-1985, *Eléments* had printed a de-

tailed slander against her husband, Lyndon LaRouche, and associates. Soon thereafter, it was discovered that the lawyer for de Benoist and the *Lettre de Magazine-Hebdo* was one and the same, a certain Maître Mocquet. The *Lettre* has been a constant source of anti-LaRouche slanders, for over a year. Early this year, it was further discovered that the *Lettre de Magazine-Hebdo* was pushing a similar editorial line to de Benoist's *Eléments* on many crucial issues. French insiders have come to the conclusion that de Benoist has been, in effect, dictating editorial policy to the *Lettre*.

Then, as France's legislative elections were approaching in March, investigators made a new discovery: that then-Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, a left-Socialist whose connections to the Soviet-KGB apparatus are enormous, had put in place a special police unit, the Groupement d'Etudes et de Recherches (GER), which was involved in coordinating disinformation campaigns against the POE—especially by disseminating the lie that the POE was controlled by the KGB, through publications of de Benoist's New Right!

The final piece in the puzzle emerged, following the appearance of an extraordinarily violent slander against Lyndon LaRouche, published by a known socialist mouthpiece, called *Evénement de Jeudi*, soon after the victory of candidates associated with LaRouche in Illinois on March 18. The publication could barely contain itself, charging LaRouche with being a Nazi, anti-Semite, and everything short of the reincarnation of Satan.

It emerged, upon still further investigation, that the chief editorialist at *Evénement de Jeudi*, Jean-François Kahn, had written a letter to de Benoist's *Eléments* in late 1985, endorsing the New Right policies of the latter publication!