

Report from Paris by Claude Albert

Weekly fined for libeling LaRouche

French courts again found "a complete absence of proof" of charges that the U.S. political leader is "anti-Semitic."

Under the headline, "The Americans Discover a Le Pen: Lyndon H. LaRouche," a long article in the April 10-16, 1986 issue of *L'Événement du Jeudi*, repeated, in regard to Lyndon LaRouche and his collaborator in France Jacques Cheminade, the "I.D. format" slanders propagated in the United States by circles close to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) since 1979, when the American political leader launched an offensive against the drug lobby.

The author of the article, Hervé Muller, accused LaRouche of, among other absurdities, having "close ties with the Ku Klux Klan," of having set up "a paramilitary training camp in Georgia," and of having at his disposal "from an official source the biggest private stock of firearms in the world," of being friendly to "fascism," of being "anti-Semitic," of spreading "themes which are familiar in a sinister way" and . . . being "soft on Moscow."

In a ruling handed down on Jan. 21, 1987, the civil Court of Paris sentenced the weekly of Jean-François Kahn to pay 30,000 francs in material damages (about \$5,000), and 3,000 francs to defray the court costs of the suit.

The lawyer for Jean-François Kahn had invoked, as proof that the charge of "anti-Semitism" against LaRouche was justified, an Oct. 17, 1980 ruling by the New York State Supreme Court in dismissing a libel suit against the ADL by some organizations inspired by LaRouche.

But the French courts once again

established that that ruling "does not state that the USLP, the NCLC, and Lyndon LaRouche are anti-Semitic," but that it merely considers that the ADL "could, in good faith, treat them as anti-Semitic taking into account their general behavior of extremely vigorous and continuous criticisms of well-known Jewish personalities and families and of organizations such as the ADL. . . ." Mr. Kahn, the judgment continues, "has hence brought no proof of the truth of the imputation of anti-Semitism."

More than four years ago, when he was sued for defamation by the European Labor Party for having called it a "Nazi grouplet," Dr. Claude Olievenstein was sentenced in 1982 in Paris to pay 5,000 francs in material damages. On that occasion, Olievenstein also abusively invoked the New York court ruling to try to "prove" that the European Labor Party was "anti-Semitic." The Paris penal court had judged—and this was confirmed on appeal—that "not only does [the New York decision] concern the U.S. Labor Party, but also and above all, it in no way establishes proof of the defamatory imputation alleged against the European Labor Party."

The other allegations made by *L'Événement du Jeudi* (Ku Klux Klan, weapons stock, pro-fascism) were also judged libelous, as well as the statement that a suspect arrested and released during the investigation of the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, was a member of LaRouche's party.

The court also ruled that the defendant had injured the honor and reputation of Jacques Cheminade and the European Labor Party by stating, without proof, that Cheminade is the secretary general of a party which pushes "the taste for plots and machinations" to the point of delirium and that "he has nightmares that begin like that," referring to the birth of Nazism in 1930.

The court ordered publication of the ruling in *L'Événement du Jeudi* within one month of its being handed down. The judgment reads in part:

"Given the fact, that the affirmation, according to which Lyndon LaRouche would have relations with the Ku Klux Klan, and that he would have, from official sources, in a military training camp which he would have set up in Georgia, the largest private stock of firearms in the world, constitutes, given the complete absence of any proof whatsoever, a defamation;

"Given the fact, that the defendant is not able to claim that he was in good faith, the inquiry carried out by Hervé Muller having been, beyond a doubt, superficial;

"And similarly, the allegations are defamatory, according to which, Lyndon LaRouche 'is ready to denounce fascism among other people. . . ' the ellipses at the end of the sentence, allow the supposition, that he would not denounce it within his own party; and the allegations are defamatory, according to which the suspect who was arrested, and then released, in the framework of the inquiry opened following the assassination of the Swedish Prime Minister Mr. Olof Palme, would have been a member of the party of Lyndon LaRouche, the defendant not having given the proof of the truth of these imputations, and not being able to invoke his good faith. . . ."