

Editorial

Let us honor Marie-Madeleine Fourcade

Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, heroine of the French Resistance during World War II, died early on the morning of July 20 at the age of 80. Fittingly, she will be the first woman to be buried at Les Invalides, the resting-place of France's military heroes.

Daughter of a French government official, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade joined an effort by a select group of French intelligence officers in the early 1930s who sought to fight the rising storm of fascism in Europe and contain the simultaneous growth of communism. In 1938 this group warned the French government and chiefs of staff of Nazi invasion plans.

A person of exceptional intelligence, charisma, and generosity, Mrs. Fourcade helped to found and then led what became the largest military intelligence organization of the French Resistance, "Alliance," after the Nazis invaded and occupied France. Alliance worked out the maps of the Nazi "wall of the Atlantic" for the Allied landings in Normandy on D-Day in 1944. In the last phase of the war, Marie-Madeleine personally led intelligence teams preceding General Patton's great offensives.

The account of the heroism, sacrifice, and struggle of the thousands of members of "Alliance" is movingly recounted in the book *Noah's Ark*, written after the war by Colonel Fourcade. That name had been given by the Gestapo to Alliance, whose members' coded references to each other used animal names.

In the postwar years, Mrs. Fourcade became a prominent leader of the nascent Gaullist movement and played a major personal role in the return of Charles de Gaulle to power in 1958. She became president of the Action Committee of the Resistance in the early 1970s, regrouping all French Resistance organizations.

In the early 1980s, Mrs. Fourcade was in the forefront of the effort to bring France into cooperation with the United States in what became known as the Strategic Defense Initiative. Her deep concern over the fate of the Western Alliance brought her into collaboration with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the intellectual author of the SDI, and his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute. She addressed the Schiller

Institute's founding convention just five years ago in July 1984 on "Schiller and the Defense of Liberty."

Mrs. Fourcade opened that speech by citing the ideas of Friedrich Schiller upon the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789, which appealed to "Freedom, Virtue, God" as the basis of overthrowing all tyranny. Later in the speech she reported, "In 1944, in particular, the American and Allied victory was also a victory for the forces of the European Resistance, including my friends of the German Resistance, who recently invited me to visit Berlin on July 20 [1984] to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their open rebellion against Hitler. . . .

"We along with other nations paid a terrible price to recover our territories and to defend our ideal of the dignity of man and his fundamental rights. . . .

"But our so dearly recovered liberty is now ominously threatened around the globe. How is it that, following our victorious thrust in the Second World War, after the horrible experience of so much suffering and so many tears, we have not been able to rescue liberty wherever it has come under siege—we, who know so well the value of our hard-fought freedom? . . . The threat today is coming from the Soviet Union: and anyone who watches their activities without himself acting and making vigorous protest, is only acting out the role of those 'happy idiots' whom Lenin liked to speak of," she warned.

Deeply convinced that the Soviet drive for world domination lay behind the political persecution of Lyndon LaRouche, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade appeared in the autumn of 1988 on a nationally televised U.S. campaign broadcast to testify to LaRouche's crucial contribution to the defense of the West.

Uncompromising in her commitments, dedicated to the last to the struggle for freedom and human dignity, Marie-Madeleine was a spiritual leader, a source of hope for all those who knew her. A holy bond tied her to those who had struggled with her through the darkest years of struggle.

France—and the world—has lost one of its great leaders.