

## Chirac forges new 'Entente Cordiale' with the British

by Mark Burdman

French President Jacques Chirac has taken a giant step toward consolidating the disastrous pro-British shift in policy orientation that he had already begun to make, in October-November 1995. From May 14 to 17, Chirac made his first state visit to Great Britain, wining and dining with members of the same British royal family whose irregular warfare apparatus had, only months before, threatened him with assassination.

Immediately before and during his four-day visit, the French President repeatedly stressed his commitment to a reinforced "Entente Cordiale" relationship with Britain. This is a reference to the French-British alliance, fashioned in 1904 by Britain's King Edward VII and pro-British degenerates in France. That alliance—in reality, a capitulation by the French to British imperial designs—was a crucial factor in those processes that led inevitably to World War I.

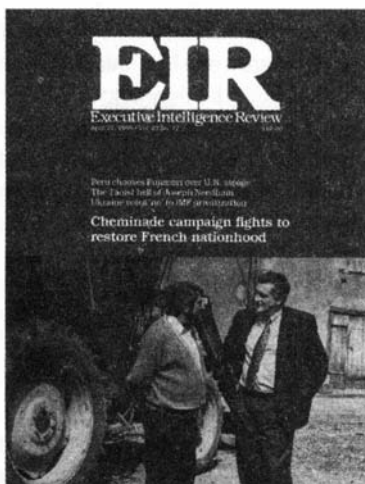
Chirac's Anglophilic diplomacy coincides with, and is directly related to, new moves by the French judicial/political apparatus against Jacques Cheminade, the associate of Lyndon LaRouche who carried the banner for France's "National Party," as a Presidential candidate in last year's national elections. Effectively, Chirac has struck a deal with the British to crush the LaRouche movement in France, at a time when LaRouche is known, throughout the world, as the most outspoken "American System" opponent of the British Empire.

Before his May 14 departure for London, Chirac called a group of British journalists to the Elysée Palace on May 12, for a background briefing. The French President used the occasion to gush about his great affection for things British. "Chirac Rekindles Entente Cordiale," headlined the May 14 London *Times*, by Paris correspondent Ben Macintyre, an attendee at the Elysée. Paraphrasing Chirac, Macintyre wrote

that, for the French President, "the Franco-British alliance is as vital to France as its relationship with Germany. . . . The Franco-German relationship remains central to French thinking, but M. Chirac was at pains to suggest, that that hallowed marriage does not preclude what might be called a 'ménage à trois' at the heart of Europe, with France balanced between Germany and Britain. . . . For a republican, M. Chirac has a strong admiration for royalty and, as a Frenchman, an equally unlikely affinity for all things British. . . . Where his predecessors have tended to view 'perfidious Albion' with at least residual suspicion, M. Chirac is openly Anglophile, and Sunday's informal discussion left no doubt that he intends his presidency to mark a fresh blossoming of the Entente Cordiale. Relations between France and Britain, particularly in the area of defense cooperation, have reached a new level of solidarity, the President said. He applauded what he called the efficiency of the British armed forces, and had especially warm praise for what he called the strong leadership of John Major, the prime minister, with whom he has a close personal understanding."

Both Macintyre and the *Daily Telegraph's* Suzanne Lowry stressed that Chirac was particularly effusive in praise for the economic policy of the British government, contrasting the "success" of the British economy, with the problems suffered by European economies on the continent. This is not only absurd, given the garbage bin that the British economy has become under the successive Thatcher and Major regimes, but is a signal, for what new atrocities the French President has in store for his own country.

Arriving in Britain May 14, Chirac was greeted at Waterloo Station by the queen's bizarre sister Princess Margaret.



*French President Jacques Chirac (center). Early in his Presidency, Chirac sided with President Clinton against the British, and showed signs of picking up policy guidelines from Jacques Cheminade, leading associate of Lyndon LaRouche in France (shown on EIR's cover of April 21, 1995).*



*The British oligarchy moved in to block any such potential, delivering assassination threats against Chirac (shown on EIR's cover of Sept. 8, 1995). Chirac swiftly capitulated, and is now groveling at the feet of the British royal family.*

He was taken for dinner to Buckingham Palace where, of course, British beef was featured on the menu. Chirac exulted about how happy he was to eat beef from the British cows that the French government had, only weeks earlier, demanded be slaughtered, after the British government officially admitted that “Mad Cow” disease could possibly be transferred to human beings. Chirac immediately authorized the French delegation to the European Union in Brussels, to push for easing the ban on British beef. Major thanked Chirac, for France’s action on this front.

Speaking before both Houses of the British Parliament on May 15, Chirac quoted 19th-century French writer Victor Hugo: “England will always be France’s sister.” In the speech, he sketched areas of “convergence” between Britain and France, ranging from military operations in former Yugoslavia, to strategic interests backed by nuclear arsenals.

At a May 16 dinner hosted by British Prime Minister Major at London’s Hampton Court Palace, Chirac affirmed, “A solid friendship between France and Great Britain is in the nature of things.” The French daily *Le Figaro* cited him, claiming that a “personal alchemy” now prevails in the Chirac-Major relationship.

His strange discussion about “the nature of things” and “alchemy” may have something to do with the fact that, earlier that day, he had been together for several hours with the unbalanced Prince Charles. Chirac could find nothing but praise for the work of one of the Prince of Wales’ social foundations

in the poorer areas of Great Britain, and promised that Charles’s approach would now be adopted in France.

By the middle of his British trip, he was telling journalists and others, that an “Entente très cordiale” (“very cordial Entente”) prevailed between the two countries, and that this would continue, whoever would be ruling Britain and France in the future.

In line with the extreme Anglophilic posture of the French President, French diplomacy has recently been very active in Russia, closely cooperating with the British. The two countries are trying to convince the Russians that they should see the United States as “the enemy,” and that the Russians should align themselves with the Franco-British axis. Knowledgeable sources affirm that this is an unabashed attempt to rebuild the pre-World War I British-French-Russian “Triple Entente.”

### **A most un-cordiale legal onslaught**

It is no coincidence, that soon before the French President was gathering with the pack of British journalists at the Elysée, a new “legal” offensive was opened against associates of former French Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade.

Pursuant to a decision by the Appeals Court on Jan. 16, “execution of the judgment” was served on two associates of Cheminade, Christine and François Bière, on May 9. Along with Cheminade and ....., the Bieres had been condemned, on Jan. 16, for “theft,” against Mrs. Denise

Pazery, a lady who had died in 1986. This condemnation had occurred, following court proceedings which lasted almost a decade. The Bierres must now repay 1.7 million francs (\$327,000), 500,000 francs of which are accrued interest since 1986, to the heirs of Mrs. Pazery.

Between 1984 and 1986, Mrs. Pazery had made loans and gifts to political causes associated with Cheminade. When she died at the age of 63, her heirs, with whom she had had a cool relationship, went through her papers, and decided to recover these contributions. The case was a travesty, inclusively involving obviously fraudulent interpretations of brain-scans of a deceased person, to substantiate a claim that she had had Alzheimer's disease at the time she gave the money. In fact, she lived alone and unassisted, drove her own car, did all her own banking, cashed promissory notes herself, and managed her credit cards. (For a fact sheet on the case, see *EIR*, Jan. 26, 1996, p. 36.)

As bizarre as the case was, it did keep the albatross of a criminal case hanging around Cheminade's neck, for years. The Appeals Court ruling is all the more damaging, as it follows the infamous, and unprecedented, Oct. 11, 1995 decision by France's powerful Constitutional Council, to deny Presidential "matching funds" to the Cheminade campaign. These moves amount to a violent financial warfare offensive against the LaRouche movement in France.

Dating back to the Mitterrand era of the latter 1980s, there has always been a close link between the "legal" attacks against Cheminade, and crucial twists and turns in the French strategic and political situation. We shall have more to say about this in future articles. Here, we look at the more recent developments, during the Chirac Presidency.

### **In the beginning, Chirac echoed Cheminade**

Chirac's reign began on a promising note, and with echoes of certain of the themes that Cheminade had introduced into the Presidential campaign. Beginning September-October 1995, as the French President cowardly capitulated to a rude and crude British "carrot and stick" strategy toward him, the legal/political offensive against Cheminade and friends took on a new and ominous dimension.

During the spring 1995 French Presidential campaign, Chirac had campaigned on a policy of economic growth and reducing unemployment. Often adopting what some commentators labelled "populist" views, candidate Chirac distanced himself from the pro-austerity, extreme monetarist positions of his main opponent, and fellow member of the "Gaullist" RPR Party, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Once he was elected, Chirac appointed a Cabinet that was an evident compromise among various factions. This included at least one hard-core Thatcherite, Finance and Economy Minister Alain Madelin, a leading figure in the Mont Pelerin Society. Nonetheless, the new President took what seemed to be positive and audacious positions on certain

crucial matters.

At the June 15-17, 1995 Halifax summit of the Group of Seven, Chirac affirmed that measures must be taken to rein in global financial speculation, which he denounced as "the AIDS of the world economy." It was certainly not lost on British observers of French politics, that, on this issue, he had closely aligned himself with the position of Cheminade, who had made this a major theme of his Presidential campaign. Back on April 7, during the election campaign, Reuters' financial wire service wrote, from Paris, that Cheminade "goes around proclaiming on the world financial cancer" brought about by speculation.

As President, Chirac also seemed to be breaking with certain of the axiomatic "geopolitical" features of the François Mitterrand Presidency, especially concerning the war in Bosnia. Whereas Mitterrand had been fully on a pro-Serb course, in tandem with Great Britain, Chirac increasingly identified the Serbs as the adversary. Here, too, it is of immediate relevance, that Cheminade had made the question of Mitterrand's appeasement of Serb aggression, and demands for vigorous action against the Greater Serbs, a key feature of his electoral platform.

By July 25, Chirac's alignment with a tougher Clinton administration approach in Bosnia, and his distancing from British policy, had gone so far, that the daily *Le Figaro* was headlining: "Chirac-Clinton: Entente Cordiale."

Through early September 1995, the French press was speaking of a "common Franco-American political impulse" vis-à-vis Bosnia, resulting from the "determination of Presidents Chirac and Clinton." There were various leaks, anecdotes, and reports in the French press, at the time, indicating that the French-American alignment was consciously directed against Great Britain.

During the same time period, a move was made against the Mont Pelerin networks, with the Aug. 25 dismissal of Madelin. He was sacrificed because of the anger against him among trade unionists and others, in reaction to his demand for large-scale budget cuts and austerity.

### **British assault, and Chirac's cowardice**

By mid-August, the British Crown and its minions counterattacked aggressively. Up to that point, British-directed moves against Chirac were mostly of the order of sniping, as with the mobilization by British Commonwealth assets, directed out of New Zealand and Australia, and in collusion with Greenpeace, against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. But at some point in August, the networks of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) began circulating a video "commercial," with a simulated death threat to Chirac. Entitled "The Day of the Jacques," it was modelled on the film "Day of the Jackal," depicting the attempts to kill the late French President Charles de Gaulle. The film company that coordinated the film project, Media Natura, was

launched at the 25th anniversary of the WWF in Assisi, Italy in 1986. An official of Media Natura stressed to a journalist that, in the campaign nominally against French nuclear testing, "Chirac is the target."

The full dimensions of, and background to, this royal family assault against the French Presidency, was featured as *EIR*'s Sept. 8, 1995 cover story, under the headline, "British Assassins' Bureau Targets Chirac and Clinton." The information in *EIR*'s possession was made available to the French Presidency.

This affair should have led, minimally, to the expulsion of the British ambassador from Paris. All the more so, as an ongoing summer terror wave in France, by British-controlled Pakistani "Afghan mujahideen," operating under the cover of "Algerian Islamic fundamentalist terrorist networks," was being coordinated and orchestrated out of London.

There must have been some intense discussions in the Elysée and related quarters, and, from evidence at hand, matters were not fully resolved into early October. One indication of this, is that as late as Oct. 7, the London daily *Independent* was still expressing fears, that Chirac would act upon the substance of his Halifax comments on financial speculation as "the AIDS of the world economy," and would enact certain dirigist economic measures, rather than impose vicious austerity on the French population.

Soon thereafter, Chirac capitulated.

He abruptly postponed a scheduled meeting with President Clinton, but did go to London, for a visit beginning Oct. 29. The postponement of the meeting with the U.S. President was all the more galling, as Clinton had initiated, in September, a very promising diplomatic course, when he invited Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the Hyde Park family estate of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, and invoked memories of World War II American-Soviet cooperation. In FDR's approach, that diplomacy was very much aimed against the imperial policies of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. By contrast, in visiting Britain, Chirac met with John Major at the Chequers retreat of FDR's philosophical and political adversary Winston Churchill.

In the lead-up to that meeting, the British threw some bones Chirac's way. First, at the same time that the British Commonwealth assets were carrying out disruptive protests in the South Pacific against French nuclear tests, Major became the first Western leader to express unqualified support for France's right to do such testing. Second, the British "blew" some of their own terrorist assets in France, allowing the French police to carry out a well-publicized mop-up operation.

Chirac's arrival in London coincided, more or less to the day, with a visible turn in economic policy. Only two months after the dismissal of Madelin, the substance of Madelin's fiscal austerity/budget-cutting policies was put into effect by Prime Minister Alain Juppé's government. By early Novem-

ber, the government was being streamlined so that austerity policies could be more effectively implemented. Such actions triggered the explosive strike wave in France, the which lasted until the end of the year.

## Renewed attack on Cheminade

Also during October 1995, the French elites made some brutal decisions to move against Cheminade. There can be little doubt, that such moves were worked out among the relevant circles in France, their allies in Britain, and the George Bush crowd in the United States.

Keep in mind the date of the cited London *Independent* article: Oct. 7. The next day, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a high-level meeting took place, sponsored by the George Bush Library Foundation Association and Forum for International Policy. Despite the fact that he was near death from cancer, Mitterrand trekked to Colorado Springs, to meet Bush, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and others.

Certain crucial messages were obviously being carried back and forth across the Atlantic, at least some of which concerned the LaRouche movement and Cheminade. The role of the British-born, American ambassador to France, Pamela Harriman, a longtime adversary of LaRouche, is currently under scrutiny.

In any case, on Oct. 11, two days after the conclusion of that Colorado Springs gathering, the French Constitutional Council, a body of nine individuals that has extraordinary powers, made its unprecedented ruling, to deny Cheminade matching funds.

The head of the Constitutional Council, former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, had, only months earlier, been appointed to the post, in one of Mitterrand's last acts as President. One month later, Dumas, too, was to pay homage to the Bush crowd, attending a policy conference in Texas sponsored by Bush-era Secretary of State James Baker III.

The Oct. 11 ruling was followed up in January, by the referenced court decision in the above-cited Pazery case. Most recently, has come the action against the Bierres.

None of these actions was strictly, or even primarily, "legal" or "administrative." Cheminade, LaRouche's close collaborator and friend, is linked to a series of policy options: France integrated into a European grand design, British and related imperial politics rejected, and the reconstruction of the world economy on "American System" principles.

Although the main processes against Cheminade et al. were set in motion under Mitterrand, the series of atrocities indicated here, occurred during President Chirac's "watch." They are fully in line with his past months' French Presidential policy turns for the worse. The French President may not be aware of it, but by so acting, and by tolerating the disgusting treatment of Cheminade and associates, he has guaranteed that France, yet again, will be heading for national tragedy.