

colonial idea that they can't sign up to something that restricts their nuclear weapons while an ex-colony (India) might be able to slip through."

The same experts claimed that if the treaty went through, China's large-scale upgrading of its nuclear weapons would hit a brick wall. China wants to carry out fresh tests to develop more accurate and potent nuclear weapons in the future, the experts claimed.

Despite this, the United States was still hoping that by offering a deal to India, it would be able to sneak in a global nuclear weapons freeze to which its fellow nuclear-weapons states would have to agree.

Who will threaten India now?

At the same time, the Indian veto would not kill the treaty if the five nuclear-weapons states are determined to get it signed in the form it exists or with fresh modifications. The Conference on Disarmament is a part of the United Nations, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty can be brought back into the United Nations General Assembly to get ratified with majority support.

There could be a CTBT without India's signature. However, the factional line-up is now far clearer; earlier, Britain would have invariably supported the United States unequivocally on all issues concerning nuclear disarmament.

There is yet another faction emerging which wants to ram the treaty down India's throat and isolate India, and perhaps Iran, a backer of India's position on the CTBT. As one unnamed western diplomat was quoted in a news wire: "Obviously, there has to be one final big showdown with India rejecting the treaty. We may go through the formality of India rejecting the treaty publicly in front of the press and the gallery. This would isolate India, and maybe Iran, while showing the world the rest of the international community in favor."

On Aug. 16, U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns gave the message: "The treaty ought to be signed and those standing in the way of the treaty, ought to get out of the way of the treaty, because the treaty expresses the will of people all over the world to have five nuclear powers declare and commit in writing that they will no longer, at any point into the future, conduct nuclear tests on a zero-yield basis."

Burns also hinted that Washington is in no mood to entertain negotiations to change the text of the treaty that had been presented in Geneva.

Visiting Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral issued a statement that his country has already written to Washington to amend the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty draft again. He explained that a number of nations are now finding the Indian position justified and have conveyed their support to the Indian opposition. He, however, was unwilling to discuss what amendment of the treaty would be acceptable to the government in Delhi.

Travesty of Justice

French gov't moves against Cheminade

On Aug. 16, the political party, Solidarité et Progrès, whose president is Jacques Cheminade, issued a statement detailing the outrageous actions to seize the assets of the former Presidential candidate. On April 7, 1995, Cheminade, a close associate of Lyndon LaRouche, had completed the arduous requirements to appear on the April 23 ballot, an action which upset the traditional "rules of the game." In France, the Presidential campaigns are publicly funded, with the candidate receiving a FF 1 million advance when his or her candidacy is accepted, and the balance of the funding when the final campaign expense accounts are submitted.

Cheminade's supporters extended his campaign some FF 3.7 million in loans, expecting to be repaid from the proceeds of the public funding after the campaign. In a completely unprecedented action, however, the Constitutional Council rejected Cheminade's accounts, claiming that the loans were actually contributions, because some of them (about one-third) were non-interest-bearing! While Cheminade is now personally bound to repay the loans, the government is also demanding he reimburse the million francs.

On July 24, 1996, the government began the process of seizing Cheminade's personal property, and has attached his bank account. Cheminade's only "crime," has been to expose the international financial oligarchy running France and the world, reponsible for the cancerous destruction of the productive economy. The following is abridged from Solidarité et Progrès' statement.

1) On July 24, 1996, a process server from the Public Treasury announced that he would come to Mr. Cheminade's residence on July 26, 1996, in order to seize Cheminade's furniture on the grounds that he has not been able to pay the state back FF 1 million his campaign organization had been advanced for his Presidential candidacy.

2) On July 26, 1996, this process server did in fact come to his residence and, in his absence, inventoried for seizure and sale his scant furniture and books ("a period cupboard, a desk, a brown fabric bench, a large wicker armchair, some 500 books"). It should be pointed out that the "cupboard" does not belong to Mr. Cheminade.

3) The seized goods "may be sold" in public auctions as of Sept. 26, 1996.

4) On Aug. 6, 1996, the attachment of Mr. Cheminade's bank accounts was effected by the same process server on

order of the Paris Collector's Office of Finances.

5) Mr. Cheminade's estate, as can be seen from his possessions and from his bank accounts, is very modest. What is being targetted are his means of daily living, both material (his furniture), and intellectual (his books).

6) Thus, Mr. Cheminade's possessions and personal bank accounts have been seized for the purpose of reimbursing a sum which no one denies was used to meet the costs of a political campaign, which Mr. Cheminade was fully qualified to enter into (having received the signatures of over 500 elected officials).

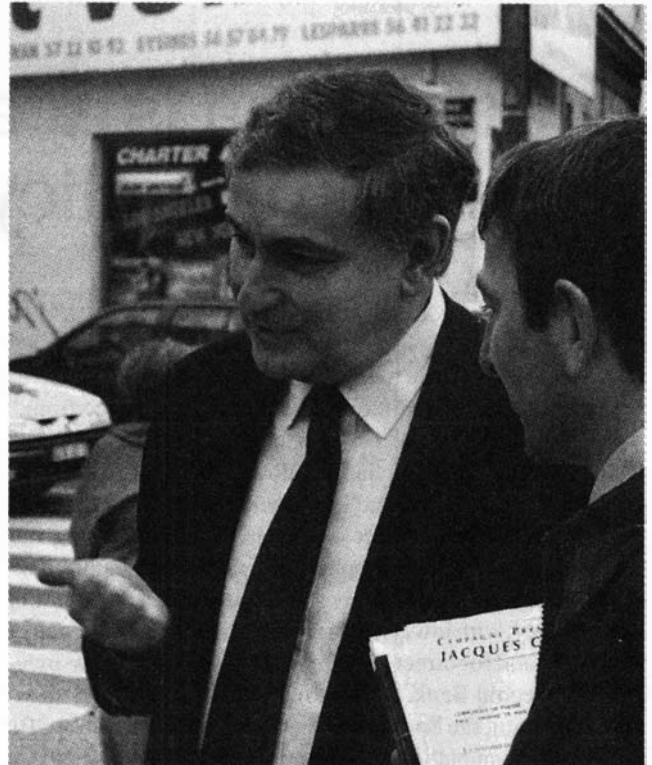
His campaign expense accounts were rejected by the Constitutional Council on Oct. 10, 1995, because the interest-free loans he had received from individuals, were considered, totally or partially, as non-reimbursable donations representing too great a share of his funds.

This argument is legally and politically astounding, especially since two other major candidates exceeded authorized spending ceilings, without that being held against them. Besides this, there is the well-known fact that other campaigns were supported by "secret funds" coming from the Prime Minister's Office and from commissions on military contracts (protected from judges' scrutiny on "national security" grounds), as well as from even less acceptable sources close to real estate interests and "business in Africa."

The targetting of Mr. Cheminade is clear; it discriminates against a "small" candidate whose ideas "bother" the political *nomenklatura* ruling France today. Seizing his possessions and his bank accounts confirms, unfortunately, a regression into the practices described in a Dickens novel. Just as the welfare recipient, the immigrant worker, or the poor person whose checking account is closed because of a small overdraft, are personally harassed, at the same time that taxpayers are called upon to bail out the large French banks' losses; in the same way, Mr. Cheminade's honor, respect, and estate are called into question because he has denounced the "financial cancer" destroying the economy, and those who are responsible for it.

7) In another legal case, decided by the 13th Chamber of the Paris Appeals Court on Jan. 16, 1996, Mr. Cheminade must reimburse the plaintiffs FF 1.1 million plus interest. It should be recalled that in this case as well, Mr. Cheminade must reimburse, out of his personal assets, donations and loans given to associations with political or social objectives. Mr. Cheminade has proven that he, himself, during the same period of time, gave very large contributions to these associations, which fact has not been challenged (see *EIR*, Jan. 26, 1996).

8) Mr. Cheminade is thus obliged to personally reimburse sums of money given to associations or political campaigns to which he was independently a major contributor—devoting both his time and money to them. Just at the time when his estate has been reduced to a more modest proportion because of this volunteer work, what remains of it is being seized. The



Jacques Cheminade campaigning during the Presidential election in 1995.

next step, as Mr. Cheminade pointed out in a memo on Jan. 19, if this contrivance is not blocked, will be putting him personally into bankruptcy and excluding him de facto from the political arena.

9) Let us add that the political activities of Mr. Cheminade's friends have been repeatedly hindered in Paris, following a police order forbidding distribution of leafets or sale of political publications. (Although the police have preferred to charge political organizers with "obstructing traffic," the fines imposed prove the political discrimination.)

10) In conclusion, there is reason to fear that, beyond Mr. Cheminade's case, there is a basic tendency building to limit the exercise of public liberties, especially the freedom to run for political office.

In any case, despite harassment against him, Mr. Cheminade will continue his fight for a different economic, social, and international policy, one that will allow us to reestablish the conditions for peace through mutual development, to guarantee respect for the downtrodden, the poor, and the wronged, and, thereby, to break with the suicidal climate of each against all, which is become widespread today. His fight is one for solidarity and progress, against the exclusion brought on by the prevailing monetarism and unbridled liberalism, in France as well as in the world.

In addition, Mr. Cheminade is using all available legal means, because of the precedent his case might represent.