
Schiller Institute Conference

France and Germany: 'Let Us Turn Our Countries Into a Fountain for the Good'

by Christine Bierre

The fraternal spirit of France's President Charles de Gaulle and Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was in evidence at a meeting organized in Paris on Feb. 4 by the Schiller Institute, in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Elysée Treaty by de Gaulle and Adenauer. The treaty put to rest the hostile feelings left over from World War II, and committed the two nations to friendship and mutual development.

Some 140 persons, including from embassies, the media, and youth, were uplifted by speeches by Jacques Cheminade, president of the Solidarity and Progress party in France, and by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) party in Germany. Both incarnated the spirit of the two great post-war leaders, in a way that current President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder have failed to do.

To be great, said de Gaulle in one of his works, is to partake in a great struggle, and a true leader must know that in every human being there is a desire for immortality which must be addressed, to inspire people to rise to the occasion. It is that sense of immortality that Cheminade and Zepp-LaRouche addressed, outlining the great challenges ahead of the renewed Franco-German alliance, if it wants to leave its mark on history. Participants were in tune with the title of the conference, "Old Europe Strikes Back"—U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's stupid rantings against the "old Europe" having had the backlash effect of motivating people to fight against the new empire that the U.S. warhawk faction wants to build.

Cheminade: The Historical Context

Cheminade opened the conference by reading excerpts of a speech given by de Gaulle to the German youth, during his first official trip to Germany in 1963. In this beautiful speech, de Gaulle challenged the young people with a great mission, in which France and Germany would act as the instrument for the good of the whole of civilization: "I congratulate you . . . for being young in this time. Your generation is looking at . . . the multiplication of the combined results of discoveries made by the scientists and of the construction of machines which profoundly change the physical conditions of men. But it is up to those who are your age today, to create the conditions

in which the new and prodigious fields that are opening up in front of your existence, become the conquest, not of a privileged few, but of all our human brothers. Have the ambition to make progress the common good, such that each person partakes in it, that it allows the increase of the beautiful, the just, and the good everywhere, . . . that it procures to the billions of inhabitants of the undeveloped regions, the means to fight against hunger, misery, ignorance, and to have access to full dignity."

Citing this from de Gaulle, Cheminade located the Elysée Treaty in its historical context: preceded by a hideous war which men like Germany's Heinrich Brüning and France's Pierre Laval were unable to stop, because of their austerity policies; and followed by the rise of Anglo-American financial and military power, which de Gaulle and Adenauer fought, but were unable to eradicate.

The wounds of the war were not yet healed when the Elysée Treaty was signed, and de Gaulle in particular had to struggle against his own public opinion. Philomene and Louise, two of his household servants, were shocked when de Gaulle informed them that the German Chancellor would come to visit, on Sept. 14, 1958: "A German here? Never, never, never!" stated these former Resistance fighters. As the two Europeans were celebrating the reconciliation with a *Te Deum* at Rheims Cathedral, demonstrators were waving posters stating, "All Nazis out of France!"

The Franco-German alliance was a new declaration of war, not against a military target, but against the imperial Anglo-American factions that came to power after Franklin Delano Roosevelt's death, and the betrayal of his policies by President Harry Truman. Not even two weeks before the signing of the treaty, on Jan. 14, 1963, de Gaulle refused Britain's entry into the European Common Market. Just a few months later, de Gaulle pulled out of NATO and recovered full military sovereignty. Rapidly, de Gaulle acted to extend the Franco-German entente from the Atlantic to the Urals; and, in a toast to Russian Prime Minister Aleksei Kosygin in 1966, he opened up to Eastern Europe.

By 1971, however, despite the hopes raised by the Franco-German alliance, the Anglo-American financier oligarchy decoupled the dollar from gold, opening the way to the financial law of the jungle that rules the world today.

We have now, once again, an immense opportunity, stated Cheminade, reviewing the recent Franco-German statements against an Iraq war, and against the European Union's inflexible, monetarist Stability Pact, which, along with the crisis of the dollar system, is pulling Europe into an economic meltdown. These statements are still terribly insufficient, he said, but seeing the reaction in the Anglo-American camp, they are not nothing. Cheminade attacked the black propaganda team created by Rumsfeld's and Vice President Dick Cheney's associates, Doug Feith and William J. Luti, who are in charge of discrediting the Franco-German anti-war effort. The pro-war statement signed by eight heads of state in Europe, against France and Germany, is totally in line with the Anglo-American efforts to sabotage the European Economic Commission and other such initiatives of de Gaulle and Adenauer.

This new Franco-German alliance cannot remain at the present level, stated Cheminade, or else it will be destroyed. And the only way to achieve progress is by dealing with three questions: 1) A mere drive against war will be totally impotent; Paris and Berlin must address the problems underlying the war drive: the bankruptcy of the present financial system. The Franco-German alliance must act to implement the ideas proposed by Lyndon LaRouche: a New Bretton Woods system, the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and an Oasis Plan for the Middle East; 2) France and Germany must mobilize their public opinions in favor of such projects, which means abandoning any type of austerity policy and changing those aspects of the Maastricht Treaty and Stability Pact which stop Europe from adopting a Rooseveltian economic policy; and 3) Europe must contribute to the efforts of the "other United States," namely that of Lyndon LaRouche.

Zepp-LaRouche: No Clash of Civilizations

Helga Zepp-LaRouche took it from there, addressing the French audience in their own language. The de Gaulle-Adenauer treaty was "a real historical breakthrough," she stated, but the "renewal of this friendship today is as important, if not more." This new alliance might be the most important European contribution to preventing a war of aggression from becoming the detonator of a Clash of Civilizations, a world war, and a new dark age.

Concerning the war against Iraq, Zepp-LaRouche said that "we have at this point a very small window of opportunity for stopping that war; everything in our power must be done to stop it." There is no reason whatsoever for this war, she stated, showing that the United States had failed to provide any proof as to the danger Iraq presents. She also called on international jurists and politicians to denounce the new American concept of pre-emptive war—in reality a war of aggression for which people were condemned in Nuremberg.

She urged people to look at LaRouche's State of the Union webcast of Jan. 28 and to compare it to George Bush's address of the same day. While Bush was raving about war, LaRouche made the point that, horrible as it would be, the war against Iraq would trigger something even worse: a Clash of Civiliza-

tions against a Muslim world of 1 billion inhabitants.

Beyond the military consequences, Zepp-LaRouche drew a grim picture of what the economic consequences of such a war would be. A price of oil up to \$80 or \$100 per barrel would probably be that last blow to a system which is already in its death agony, she stated.

Since the United States has the world's strongest military apparatus, the only possibility to stop the war and to stop the U.S. descent to a totally imperial power, is that opposition be mobilized from inside that country. Zepp-LaRouche outlined her husband's efforts to block the war party, including by mobilizing the traditional forces in the military.

What can Europe do, in a situation where we are now on a short fuse to war, and where any pretext could be created—such as a mega-terrorist attack—to unleash the war against Iraq? She indicated that while demonstrations in Europe would strengthen the anti-war resolve, they are not enough to stop the war drive, the causes of which are in the economic crisis.

The entire system is on the verge of collapsing, she said, indicating that more than half of the world's most powerful 50 banks are hopelessly bankrupt. Beyond Argentina, Brazil, Japan, and now Germany, which are in very bad shape, the epicenter of the crisis is the United States. The dollar is collapsing; 46 out of 50 states of the Union are bankrupt. California's governor recently declared that, were he to lay off all state employees, and close all jails, hospitals, schools, universities, and psychiatric clinics in California, the state's enormous debt would only be cut by half!

We must overturn the depression, she stated, indicating that this is the real challenge for France and Germany. In large parts of the world, famine, hunger and disease are overwhelming. Zepp-LaRouche reported on her recent trip to India and particularly her visit to Calcutta, where Lyndon LaRouche found the poverty worse even than 57 years ago, when he first visited that city. More than 3 million people live in the streets, with just a mat to sleep on and one meal a day, and with no access to clean water, electricity, heat, or toilets. In India, a beautiful country where the Rig Veda civilization goes back 10,000 years, 5 to 7% of the population is infected with HIV.

After giving examples of how the Eurasian Land-Bridge and the New Bretton Woods will pull the world out of the depression, Zepp-LaRouche outlined a mission for France and Germany in the spirit of de Gaulle's speech to the German youth. What is needed is the quality of mission of Joan of Arc, in her fight against what the Indians call, the "Britishers"—the quality of mission of a Gottfried Leibniz who, in spirit, was both French and German.

"The German/French friendship is a beautiful thing," she stated, stressing that the treasures in both countries' history, make them privileged, but also confer upon them special duties. "We must turn our countries into a fountain of good, a fountain of truth, of vision and of generosity," she said, such that "no small country in Europe can feel threatened by this, but rather will want to be pulled into this development."