

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, whose public outbursts have created an impossible situation for the European backers of a war against Iraq.

All over Spain, booktables are now organized to gather signatures against the war, while there are plans made for possible nationwide demonstrations on March 15 and March 21. The unprecedented ferment could indeed sweep the unpopular Prime Minister out of office sooner than he thinks. In an op-ed in the daily *El País* on March 4, the chief magistrate of the Audiencia Nacional, Balthazar Garzón, wrote, "I can't recall a degree of protest and authentic popular rebellion, like that which your position as Prime Minister of the government is generating in all layers and social classes of Spain. I also cannot recall the degree of cynicism displayed by leading politicians who use demagoguery and manipulate the media, to play on the fears of the citizens by bombarding them with lies."

Garzón told the Aznar to defend the right of justice, join with the Pope, and decide "whether he wants to be a great statesman and take a position which the entire civilized world, the French, Germans, Russians, Chinese, and Syrians have taken, and join the battle cry in the opposition against war." He ended by asking Aznar, at what price he is willing to participate in the war, "a price which will be covered by the blood of thousands of innocents" and which ultimately will mean political suicide for Aznar.

Chirac Flanks U.S. War Drive—in Africa

by David Cherry

French President Jacques Chirac arrived in Algeria on March 2 to a hero's welcome, as his open-top motorcade, travelling the nine miles from the airport to downtown Algiers, was greeted by cheering, confetti-throwing crowds numbering in the hundreds of thousands.

The meaning of his visit was not lost on London and Washington. Chirac "is leading the diplomatic campaign against a U.S.-led war in Iraq" and his visit to Algeria "is expected further to strengthen his standing in Africa and the Middle East," wrote the British *Financial Times* on March 3. "He seeks to prove that France remains a global power, . . . and is an alternative voice to Washington," said London's *Daily Telegraph* on March 4.

In an interview on Algerian TV on March 1, Chirac had said that he hoped to establish close relations between the two countries like those between France and Germany.

Moroccan sociologist Mohammed Tozy told the French newspaper *Libération* that "everyone is talking about . . . American hegemony, and the Europe-U.S. confrontation. It's as if the Arab world were uniting behind the French and German duo and that the Arab hero were Chirac."

There is potential for more than political realignment in Chirac's move. If war cannot be avoided, and France and Germany break from the free-trade and globalization strait-jacket to defend themselves against the ensuing economic chaos (see *EIR* Feb. 21, p. 4), they will require a relationship with the developing sector much more favorable to both sides.

Addressing both houses of the Algerian Parliament on March 3, Chirac spoke of his vision of an "exceptional partnership." He referred to the bitter Franco-Algerian war of 1954-62, by which Algeria eventually obtained its independence, as "a tragedy whose name, these many years, we did not wish to speak," but which "we must neither deny nor forget." But, he said, "a vast new vista is opening before us. . . . The destinies of Algeria and France are deeply intertwined. . . ." He expressed his "esteem and respect" for an "Islam open to the world."

Chirac called upon Iraq to "cooperate more fully" with UN weapons inspectors, adding that "We must maintain strong pressure" on Saddam Hussein "to reach together and in peace, our established objective of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction." His 30-minute address received a prolonged, standing ovation.

Chirac presented Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika with the silver seal of the last Dey of Algiers—seized by

ON THE WEB

EIR'S STORE



Quick, easy, and secure credit-card purchase of:

- Single issues of *EIR*
- Videotapes
- Special Reports
- Books

www.larouchepub.com
 Visa and MasterCard accepted.

See the website for a complete listing of available titles.

French forces when they took over the city in 1830—calling it a symbol of Algerian sovereignty. In a moving gesture, President Chirac shook hands with two leading Algerian fighters in the renowned Battle of Algiers, and laid a wreath at a tomb for those who died fighting for independence. Chirac himself had fought against independence as an army lieutenant.

Chirac led a delegation of 80, including five Cabinet ministers, many political figures, artists, and business and industrial leaders. He visited Oran, Algeria's second largest city, addressed Algerian youth at al-Senyah University, and visited the newly reopened Michelin tire factory in Algiers before ending his three-day visit on March 4.

Bouteflika, on French radio, said Chirac deserved the Nobel Peace Prize if he could prevent a war against Iraq.

France's New Partnership With Africa

Chirac's Algerian move gave punch to his declaration, at the 22nd Franco-African summit in Paris on Feb. 20-21, that France and Africa have entered a new phase of equal partnership, that "extends from development issues, such as fighting AIDS and improving agriculture and education, to fighting terrorism and organized crime." "France will encourage African development, but not dictate what to do," Chirac said, adding that France would serve as Africa's "advocate" before international organizations.

The Algerian visit, however, is only the latest, most spectacular of the steps Chirac is taking to implement the declaration. At the summit itself, Chirac violated globalization's free-market principles by speaking of the need to raise the prices of raw materials, and proposed at least ten years of favorable trade terms for Africa. He did not say how that should be done. He reversed existing French policy by urging developed countries to suspend subsidies for agricultural exports to African countries temporarily, pointing out that cheap imports into Africa were undercutting African production. How farmers in the developed sector would be ensured parity prices, he did not say. But while the European Union is the biggest exporter to Africa, only 3% of EU farm exports go to Africa.

Stepping into English-speaking Africa—which the Anglo-American powers think is their turf—Chirac offered to help the governments of South Africa, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe find solutions to problems of democracy, justice, and landownership in Zimbabwe; his proposal has been accepted by all three. South African President Thabo Mbeki said on Feb. 21, that Chirac insisted, "if there is a problem, let's discuss it and let's find a solution. And if there are things that need to be done that might require resources . . . let's see what we can do."

Beginning Feb. 8, France, South Africa, and India held a week of joint military exercises in Gwalior, India. French ties with South Africa are "visibly warming," the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported Feb. 21.

Jorge Castañeda

Drug Legalizer Soros' Man in Mexico

by Rubén Cota Meza

"The Soros Foundation isn't operating yet in Mexico, but soon it will be, and it will be headed by former Foreign Minister Jorge G. Castañeda," wrote Federico Arreola, executive vice president of the Multimedios Editorial Group, in the Feb. 5 edition of the Mexico City newspaper *Milenio*. According to Arreola, Castañeda will use the funds of the "famous speculator" George Soros for his "run for the Presidency which, of course, will take off as soon as next Summer's intermediate elections are over."

Although Arreola's revelation has not yet been officially confirmed, neither has it been denied by either Castañeda or Soros. And it comes as no surprise, in any case, given their close, long-term ties, and their common goals of destroying Mexican national sovereignty and of legalizing drugs.

Soros' Penetration of Mexico

In October 1998, on the eve of the special session of the UN General Assembly on drugs, the world-class speculator and drug-legalization proponent Soros paid for a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times*, in which he claimed that the war on drugs has caused more damage than the consumption of illegal drugs, and therefore, the production, trade, and consumption of drugs should be legalized. The man who put together the advertisement is Ethan Nadelmann, who served for many years as executive director of the Lindesmith Center, and is currently executive director of the U.S. Alliance for Drug Policy. Both are organizations financed by Soros. Among the dozens of signers of the advertisement who support Soros' position, is Mariclaire Acosta, who at the time was president of the Mexican Academy for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights in Mexico.

In 2000, as Foreign Affairs Secretary for President Vicente Fox, Castañeda created two new under-secretarial positions to push Soros' drug legalization plan from inside Mexico. In the special "Human Rights" post, Castañeda put Mariclaire Acosta, and in that of "Global Affairs," he put Patricia Olamendi. Olamendi's responsibility was to revise the UN policy on drugs agreed to in the October 1998 special session. According to a Nov. 3, 2002 report from *Narco News*, the news service on drug legalization activities, Nadelmann "spent two days in private meetings at the Mexican Foreign Ministry" before giving a speech at the Center for Economic