

## Sarkozy Regime Is 'Break With French History'

Jacques Cheminade, former French Presidential candidate, leader of the Solidarité et Progrès party, and co-thinker of Lyndon LaRouche, issued from Paris on May 18 a strong condemnation of the stated policies of the newly elected French government of President Nicolas Sarkozy. "The Sarkozy government represents a break with the history of the France as a nation-state and the policies since the victory over Nazism," declared Cheminade, citing "the support from American neo-con Richard Perle, banker Felix Rohatyn, and Bush pal Tony Blair. Even the conservative daily *Le Figaro* of May 7 wrote: 'With the election of Nicolas Sarkozy, France is taking a neo-conservative turn of the same nature as Britain did under Margaret Thatcher, America under Ronald Reagan, Spain under José María Aznar, or Italy under Silvio Berlusconi.'"

Under a neo-liberal Sarkozy regime, the Finance Ministry is to be chopped up in order to carry out deep cuts in the public sector, in order to hand over the most profitable parts to the private sector. The slogan, "Work more to earn more!" thus means enriching speculators, service sector

tycoons, and the beneficiaries of public contracts.

Sarko's foreign policy is of a piece: Bernard Kouchner, the new Foreign Minister, is a pseudo-"man of the left" who supported the Bush-Cheney war against Iraq. Jean-David Levitte, who will be Sarkozy's close diplomatic advisor at the Presidential palace, re-established contacts with the Bush Administration after outgoing President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Dominique Villepin imposed the French veto against Cheney's Iraq adventure. Secretary of State for European Affairs Jean-Pierre Jouyet intends to make France adopt a European Union mini-treaty to reverse the 2005 "no" vote which rejected the supranational European Constitution.

Cheminade concluded: "At the very moment that the process leading to the impeachment of Vice President Cheney is shaping up in the United States under the guidance of my American friends, and at a time when economic cooperation among Russia, India, and China is intensifying, the Sarkozy government is stripping France of any power for independent intervention."

In the face of this, the Soliarité et Progrès movement has taken up the mission "to inspire and catalyze a wide range of forces committed to social justice, to human creativity and its economic expression, and opposed to the predatory logic of short-term profit which degenerates into a war of each against all," Cheminade stated.