

Ministry summarized how SDI is judged by the Teltschik commission's findings: "The U.S. research program on SDI is one of the efforts which are justified, politically necessary, and relevant to the security interests of the Atlantic Alliance." For Europe, he demanded: "We should jointly pursue considerations on a European anti-missile system which, either independently or as an element of SDI, would open up space as a dimension of defense."

That Germany should take a leading role was stated a week later by the Christian Democratic defense committee in Bonn. The committee called for adding a German research effort to the cooperative SDI project, including work on defense against Soviet medium-range missiles, long-range aircraft and cruise missiles, and funded by the defense ministry's regular budget.

If the Bonn government decided to start this program, other, as yet undecided, European countries would probably follow. However, one of the biggest obstacles is in the German government itself. State secretary Martin Grüner, from the Free Democratic Party of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, declared during the WEU colloquium, that "in questions of SDI, foreign policy must have *absolute* priority." Unfortunately, Genscher's foreign policy toward the Soviet Union is one of appeasement, and denial of the increasing Soviet military buildup.

Interview: Jean-Marie Caro

'Eureka should not be anti-SDI project'

The following interviews were conducted by Heinz Horeis during the WEU colloquium on the European challenge in space, held in Munich Sept. 18-20.

Jean-Marie Caro is president of the assembly of the WEU, Member of the French Parliament, and member of the opposition party UDF.

EIR: Mr. Caro, in your speech you demanded a "clear decision" on SDI and Eureka, which, in your opinion, is showing, is lacking. What could the WEU do about this?

Caro: First of all, my organization needs to have complete information on these two projects, especially on Eureka. We have some more knowledge on SDI, because we had some meetings in Washington in the State Department, but the only knowledge on Eureka we have is through the press.

My opinion is that the Assembly of the WEU could im-

prove the comprehension of the compatibility of the two projects. If Europe responds positively on the SDI-program through a European project, namely Eureka, then Eureka has to be a complement in the sense of partnership with SDI. Eureka should not be a anti-SDI project. . . .

EIR: If you say that Eureka should be a complement to SDI, then this would mean that Eureka will be a kind of European Defense Initiative?

Caro: The French government presently declares Eureka a civilian project, but we know that the military implications will be very important, too, so Eureka can take part in the research on the new strategic defense systems.

EIR: You also said that the standpoints of the WEU countries on SDI are not so far apart. What leads you to this not so obvious conclusion?

Caro: I do not have the information at the moment to say, that the European governments are in agreement on a coordinated reaction regarding Reagan's proposal, but I know, that after long discussions they agreed on Sept. 7 to consider the whole aspect of an European attitude towards SDI, the scientific, technological side as well as the political and military side of it. . . . We will know more at the December meeting of the ministers in Rome.

As a French member of parliament, I must say that I am urging my government to be complete about the European attitude towards SDI and Eureka. What they are doing, is not clear. They are playing a sort of "hide and seek."

EIR: How would you, as a French politician, judge a positive decision of the German government on SDI, which may be possible after the return of the Teltschik commission. Could this help your country to find a clearer position?

Caro: Yes, of course, because a common language between France and Germany has always been the aim of French politics. At this time, the French are farther from a positive answer to SDI than some months ago, and I hope that West Germany will help change this.

EIR: One essential point was more or less missing in the discussions during the colloquium, except for Professor Felden's speech: seeing SDI as a military necessity in response to the Soviet offensive threat. . . . within WEU?

Caro: We have a majority in the Assembly in favor of SDI, but we also have some tendencies against it. . . . Personally, I think that SDI is a good thing . . . and I completely agree with everything Professor Felden said in his presentation. This American challenge gives Europe a magnificent chance to develop its own identity on this crucial point. For France, it gives us a chance to see whether in some years our nuclear defense would run the risk of becoming obsolete, and what we have to do after that.