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Special Report-France

Gaullists Offer Conditional Support For New French Gov't Based On Non-Alignment Policy

Sept. 4 (NSIPS) — Since the resignation of French Premier Chirac Aug. 25, an operation engineered by France's Gaullist "barons," the formation of a new cabinet dominated by the Gaullists has served to consolidate the pro-growth forces in France. The Gaullists have made it clear that their support for the new Premier, Raymond Barre, will be entirely dependent on his adoption of their own policies. At the same time, an array of industrialist and banking circles have joined ranks with the Gaullists, pushing for recognition and agreement with the demand for debt moratoria issued by the Non-Aligned Nations' Fifth Summit, and for a commitment to a domestic policy of industrial expansion.

In an interview Sept. 2, the monetary expert of the French industrialist association (CNPF) told NSIPS that growing out of their concern over dollar-created inflation, the CNPF will support a Third World debt moratoria, and "out of human motives," greater investment in the developing sector. The Director of economic studies for the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Jean Denizet, told the French daily *Le Figaro* today in words echoing leading Gaullist Michel Debré that "if austerity means putting men back to work, creating new equipment, then yes to austerity! If this word means to tighten one's belt, to consume less because one produces less, then it is not the appropriate recipe." Outside of a "Malthusian framework," he said, we can provide a real 5 per cent increase per year in the living standard, instead of merely increasing wages to keep up with galloping inflation. Debré himself reiterated this perspective in a guest column written for the daily *Le Monde's* Sept. 5 issue.

These programmatic statements are the content of the repeated warnings by the Gaullists that their support for the new government is conditional.

Claude Labbe, leader of the UDR parliamentary group, summed up this position when he addressed his group earlier this week. "We are faced with a different situation. The Prime Minister does not belong to the UDR any more... In the past, effective and political ties with the Prime Minister (the ousted Chirac, a "revisionist" Gaullist —ed.) led, in general, to the group finally rallying to the position which was presented (by the Premier). This will not happen anymore." The UDR will no longer "cave in in *extremis* following a last minute endeavor by the Prime Minister," Labbe is quoted as saying in *Le Monde* Sept. 2.

As the French press has been quick to point out, Raymond Barre, an economist primarily, is only the "technical" Premier: the real "political Prime Minister" is Olivier Guichard, the new Minister of Justice and formerly De Gaulle's private secretary.

The Gaullists will have the chance to exert their first prerogative against Giscard with the Sept. 15 convening of the North-South conference in Paris, where debt moratoria for the Third World will be the first item on the agenda. The Gaullists' willingness to negotiate a New International Economic Order sharply contrasts with President Giscard's alliance with Secretary of State Kissinger to wreck the North-South conference, with a "no negotiations on debt moratoria" position.

Domestically, Giscard is faced with potential defection by the Gaullists, and some deputies from his own party the Independent Republicans, following a decision made by the outgoing cabinet last week to levy an additional 5 per cent incomes tax to finance relief measures for the drought. Leading Gaullists and members of the IR and all the trade-unions and agricultural organizations are opposed to this tax and instead call for a "national loan" backed by the banks to produce the necessary credit against future production.

UDR Statement On Barré

Sept. 2 (NSIPS) — The executive committee of the Gaullist (UDR) party at their Aug. 28 meeting issued the following statement of conditional support for the newly appointed government of Premier Raymond Barre:

"The executive bureau of the UDR...offers homage to Jacques Chirac for the work he accomplished during his two years at the head of the ministry, often in difficult conditions, thus for the action which he led in order to preserve the unity and integrity of the Gaullist movement. To the extent that he did not dispose of the means necessary to fully carry out his tasks as head of the government, we understand and approve his decision to renounce his functions. His departure is a politically important event which will lead to profound consequences.

"We approve the decision of our companions who have accepted ministerial functions. However, whereas certain UDR members have responsibilities in the government, we no longer have responsibility for the government.

"We will judge the new cabinet on the basis of its policy and the results it will obtain. We will support it to the extent that it will lead a vigorous actions against the problems of the hour and, first of all, in the struggle against inflation — the only means to avoid underemployment and economic recession, and to the extent that it maintains the line of national independence as well as a policy of real social progress.

"The UDR is conscious that its unity, size, personality and its sense of the general interest, is a determining element of our political life. The sterile agitation among the formations which support the government have never been of its (UDR) making. As for itself, (the UDR) has decided to maintain this attitude, but it expects the same behavior from the other formations. In the interest of France, the UDR hopes for the success of the government's action.

Debré Statement On Barre

Sept. 2 (NSIPS) — In an interview on national radio August 31, Gaullist Baron Michel Debré repeated his statement of conditional support for the Raymond Barre government and defined the terms for his continuing that support. Debré's interview was excerpted from the Sept. 1 *L'Aurore*.

"The vocation of men (organized) around Gaullism is to make decisions in line with national interest...The role of the in-

dividuals will be set aside and the UDR will support the government if its policy reunites national independence, social progress and economic effort...My friends in the UDR will vote up a rigorous budget if the rigor is located in an overall policy which can give results. On the other hand, if we must return to the games of the (pre-De Gaulle) Fourth Republic, then we will be against (the government.)”

New Foreign Minister A “Gaullian” Says Les Echos

Sept. 2 (NSIPS) — The French financial daily *Les Echos* characterized France’s new Foreign affairs minister, Louis de Guiringaud, in the following terms in an article entitled “Guiringaud and the North-South conference” on Aug. 30:

“Throughout his career, de Guiringaud has distinguished himself by his Gaullist attitude, if not his Gaullist etiquette. He never lost the opportunity to recall that France should be at the

head of western non-aligned nations. He has the reputation of having a stiff back-bone, and... (he) could seek to orient foreign policy in a less Atlanticist and European direction than his predecessor (Jean Sauvagnargues).”

De Guiringaud Indicates Freedom Of Action In Carrying Out Foreign Policy

Sept. 2 (NSIPS) — French Foreign Minister de Guiringaud was quoted in the French Communist Party daily *L’Humanité* Sept. 1 as stating:

“The Minister of Foreign Affairs is associated with the definition of foreign policy which is the responsibility of the President. But this leaves to the Minister very broad responsibilities. There is a very broad area where the President does not enter, and where the Minister is required to give explanations: that is the area of the execution of this policy.”

Special Report-West Germany

West German Election Focuses On Colombo Plan - Because Of The European Labor Party

Sept. 3 (NSIPS) — Only days into the month-long campaign for West Germany’s Oct. 3 federal elections, the European Labor Party has emerged as the nation’s only public spokesman on foreign policy matters. The other major parties’ deafening silence on the historic Colombo resolution has only been broken when ELP candidates and organizers directly confront national politicians on the campaign trail before constituency audiences. These politicians’ incoherent stutterings have been driving citizens from all social layers to reconsider their ingrained prejudices against “small parties” and vote ELP.

The critical background to this situation is as follows. Since slightly before the Colombo Non-Aligned conference, West Germany — the servile bastion of Atlanticism — has had no effective foreign policy whatsoever. The Social Democratic government and the political parties have been unable to say anything definitive on Colombo. If it formally rejects the proposals of the Third World for a new world economic order, it is effectively moving to destroy what is left of the West German economy. If it comes out in favor of the proposals, then the government has broken with its Atlanticist-controllers and faces all the repercussions of such a move. And so “official” West Germany buries its head and waits, as one source put it, to see what “the President of the United States will or will not do” about Colombo.

While the government sits paralyzed, the ELP is moving into the leadership vacuum, telling the German people what must be done.

Throughout the eight of the ten West German states in which it is running, the ELP has been holding well-attended rallies, devoting major discussion to the significance and practicability of general international debt moratoria and an overhaul of the monetary system. In Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich, and the Ruhr industrial district, crowds of up to 100 have surrounded ELP organizers. Disgusted workers from the Social Democratic Party (SPD) or even from the German Communist Party (DKP) have begun to put pressure on their own sluggish networks. In one example, 100 participants at a Hamburg rally passed a bullhorn from questioner to questioner, while a Neo-Nazi who tried to disrupt was picked up and angrily tossed 30 feet.

The national contest between incumbent Social Democrat Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Christian Democrat (CDU) Helmut Kohl has degenerated into a clown show so vacuous as to embarrass even Jimmy Carter. Last week both Schmidt and Kohl received strict orders from Wall Street to confine electioneering to minor or non-controversial issues such as pension funding — orders transmitted by Richard von Weizsaecker, a liberal CDU politician just returned from a long visit to the U.S. Atlanticist think-tank, the Aspen Institute.

Weizsaecker explained to ELP questioners the exact nature of his instructions: “I spoke with Kissinger.... I know what a moratorium is, it is the breaking of a solemn treaty. You do not fulfill what you promised to do.”

An obedient Helmut Schmidt lost no time in getting the word out in *Der Spiegel* magazine this week. Asked “whether this campaign won’t have any real theme, but will pass a lot of hot air,” Schmidt answered: “Yes.”

Every national politician who has dared show his face before a public audience has had to contend with the ELP’s briefings and persistent questioning. Schmidt himself has taken the easy way out by not campaigning at any industrial sites, but most have appeared to their audiences as reincarnations of the Hapsburg king Philip II of Spain and his banker Jakob Fugger combined.

In Hamburg, top SPD foreign policy operative Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski was presented with a packet of documents on Colombo. “I don’t want to see them,” he gasped. “I know I’m crazy already, but I don’t want to see my death warrant written in black and white.”

Free Democratic Party (FDP) faction leader Wolfgang Mischnick looked no less ridiculous in Frankfurt when he told an ELP challenger, “We don’t have debts which are larger than the national product, so we don’t have any problems.” Mischnick was sharply attacked for his no-growth economic policies by a representative of the powerful Chemical Industry Association.

Christian Democratic foreign policy expert Walter Leisler-Kiep was at least factually correct when he “warned” a Hannover audience “A debt moratorium would mean the expropriation of the Third World’s creditors!” The listeners — mostly farmers — gave their own opinion by roundly booing the CDU