

Gaullists, Soviets Box In Giscard

Dec. 16 — The government of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing is being forced to the wall because of its continued support of the war policy of the incoming Carter Administration and its own consistent sabotage of international negotiations for the new world economic order. Giscard has been cornered by the developing alliance of Gaullist forces and the Soviet Union.

A joint communiqué of parliamentary delegations of French and Soviet foreign affairs specialists, led by Soviet Communist Party leader Boris Ponomarev and Gaullist Couve de Murville has delivered the message to Giscard: either East-West cooperation in the critical areas of technological progress and development takes place, or there will be nuclear war. Meanwhile, in *Le Figaro* Gaullist Baron Michel Debré sharply criticized the refusal of European governments to take continent-wide measures to eliminate such "foreign aggressions" as U.S. dollar inflation, the root cause of the economic depression which is leading to the rapid shutdown of European industry.

President Giscard and his pro-Kissinger Foreign Affairs Minister Louis de Guiringaud have continued their attacks on traditional Gaullist foreign policy. At last week's NATO Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting, de Guiringaud rejected out of hand a proposal by the Warsaw Pact countries to implement a ban on the first use of nuclear weapons and to start the process of disbanding the two military alliances. In justification of his action, de Guiringaud cited President Giscard's words to Yugoslav President Tito that France could not tolerate a ban on first strike use because in the event of attack, all options must be left open. Giscard has compounded this crime by proposing that France entirely abandon the export of nuclear technology to the developing sector, a cornerstone of Gaullist development policy with the Third World.

The French working class has served notice it won't accept the levels of Giscardian austerity called for under the so-called economic recovery plan of Prime Minister Raymond Barre. Following a government refusal to negotiate a cost of living escalator for workers of the state-owned French electricity company, members of the five unions represented at EGF declared a two day strike for Dec. 14 and 15 which has already been described by the AFP wire service as "one of the most vigorous ever in this industry." Should the government maintain its position on the cost of living escalator, there is every likelihood, according to the French press, that strike actions will quickly spread to the rest of the public sector, including coal miners, railroad workers and Paris public transport workers, whose contracts come up for negotiation in the very near future.

To date, Giscard's government has responded to the pincer-like Gaullist-workingclass pressure against it by trying to lay the blame for the political tension at the door of so-called Gaullist "partisanship." Giscard's

Socialist Party ally, François Mitterrand, informed the French press this week that the new Gaullist Party (RPR) is a new version of the fascist leagues of 1934.

Debre:

Need Europe-Wide Economic Action To Defend Against American Economic Policy

Dec. 14 — The following are excerpts from an interview today with French Gaullist leader Michel Debré. Debré was interviewed by Patrice H. Desaubliaux, a correspondent for the French daily Le Figaro.

"The current political agitations are the expression of an internal situation which is difficult and which is in the process of being further aggravated...To a large extent, this situation is the consequence of insufficient political action in recent years...What has not been recognized is the need for economic action at the level of the European continent in order (for Europe) to defend itself against certain external aggressions: American monetary policy....

"Up to now, one would have thought that things cannot be frankly approached except by rising above political parties and thereby seeking with their agreement, at least for a period of time, a government which will be able to appeal to national sentiment in order to reestablish the basic conditions for a healthy economy and, at the same time, a society more conscious of the necessities of the present...."

(In response to a question whether or not Debré would continue to support the economic program of Prime Minister Raymond Barre, he said) "...From my seat as a parliamentary deputy, I have made use of my freedom to speak and to write to support the recovery plan elaborated by M. Barre. If tomorrow, as I believe it is necessary and urgent, a new stage is decided, I will likewise support it. But do not ask me to participate, by means of a change in the electoral voting procedures, in the deterioration of the institutions of the Republic and, by means of supranationality, in the loss of the independence of our diplomacy and our defense...."

(Questioned on denials by French Foreign Affairs Minister de Guiringaud that the proposed European Parliament, outlined in the Tindemanns Plan, would interfere with the sovereign rights of the signatories of the Treaty of Rome, Debré answered) "It is impossible to believe those who assert that the election of the European Assembly by universal suffrage will be done in the context of the Treaty of Rome and that this Assembly will not spread outside the limits of the treaty. Things must be stated as they are: we are turning our backs on the political orientation of France as it was defined by General de Gaulle. It is the triumph of anti-Gaullism. Do not be surprised if I can not accept this...."