

gotiations for further French assistance are ongoing, though plagued by disputes over the price of French-supplied enriched uranium. Giscard's visit should help consolidate these deals.

A strong and economically developing India, with close ties to France, would represent a powerful ally in the developing sector for France's broader plans for North-South relations within the framework of a fully functioning European Monetary System.

Franco-Japanese relations will be of paramount importance in this regard and in regard to France's policy toward China. Traditionally, these relations are not close although Japanese interest in France has increased over the past decade as the country looks to strengthen its ties to Europe.

France in Korea

The relationship between France and South Korea has been very strong since the military coup in May 1961 that brought General Park Chung-hee to power. Anxious to expand Korea's relations with Western powers other than the United States, Park sought out ties to both West Germany and France. Chancellor Adenauer and President de Gaulle were two of the first world leaders to extend diplomatic recognition to Park's government.

The tradition of French independence, as represented by de Gaulle, formed the basis for a close relation between the two countries, as it was the goal of Park Chung-hee's coup to strengthen Korea's independence and "self-reliance." Economic ties have become particularly important; Korea is the second largest importer of French products in all of Asia, with high-technology capital goods taking a large chunk of the total.

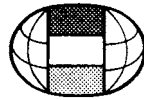
Most representative of the close relationship between the two countries was the agreement reached in 1973 for France to provide Korea with nuclear reprocessing technology. The deal was negotiated by Gaullist Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Korea Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil. Kim, who was the chief architect of the 1961 coup, has often been described as a "Korean Gaullist," and was often used by late President Park Chung-hee for sensitive talks with both France and West Germany.

Following the announcement of the deal, the United States put tremendous pressure on Seoul to cancel the agreement, with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger playing a leading personal role in the affair. In 1976, the pressure succeeded and the Koreans did not gain access to the reprocessing technology. Nevertheless, overall cooperation on nuclear energy development has continued between the two countries.

—Peter Ennis

Inside France

The 'left' and the 'right' against the President



Lately, the Gaullist component of the coalition of parties that makes up the French government of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has been rejecting en bloc government-submitted legislation and blasting the President's foreign policy, particularly toward the developing sector.

Political analysts report that the Gaullist RPR Party is simply trying to distance itself from Giscard and his policies with an eye to running RPR Party leader Jacques Chirac in the 1981 presidential elections. While such reports have a grain of truth, the reality, as a cursory look at the London-based press or its allied Rothschild-owned French dailies like *Le Matin* or *Le Monde* shows, the City of London and the Washington, D. C. crowds are determined to use whatever means are available to prevent Giscard from extending the European Monetary System world-wide as he pledged to do during his Nov. 17 television appearance, and extending his term in office for another seven years.

London and Washington have deployed a classic "left versus right" operation against the President on the issues of national economy and foreign policy, including a de facto alliance between the Gaullist Party and the French Socialist Party.

In fact, while the Gaullists are taking a critical stand against the President's African policy and his management of the French economy, the left is charging that Giscard is an imperialist ruler who won't even listen to his own majority, much less the poor underdeveloped African nations.

The budget fight

This past week, Prime Minister Raymond Barre was forced to invoke Article 49 of the French Constitution. The issue was the adoption of the state budget submitted by the Giscard government to the National Assembly. Less than a third of the National Assembly voted for the budget—the "left" parties voted censure motions and the Gaullists abstained. By refusing to vote on a govern-

ment bill, the Gaullists were provoking the use of Article 49—and for the third time in a week.

Article 49 is an important element of the French Constitution put in place by President Charles de Gaulle in 1958. To reject a government bill outright means a no-confidence vote against the government itself. Then the President can dissolve the national Assembly, send the deputies packing and schedule a new election.

The Gaullists were careful not to vote to censure. It could have cost them a third or more of their voting strength in the Assembly. The fact is that among the French people, Giscard's popularity is high, while that of the Gaullists is low.

The Gaullists nonetheless did abstain. They were demanding that a few thousand dollars be trimmed from the budget or else. . . . Giscard, by turning the question into a constitutional issue, answered as de Gaulle had done in presenting the 1958 Constitution. "My role as President of the Republic," said the General, "is not to let any party take the least step toward weakening the institutions and notably those which are the responsibility of the executive power."

The Bokassa diamonds scandal

The Gaullists chose to battle Giscard on economic policy matters not because of any fundamental disagreement, but because, in a period of continuing inflation and rising unemployment, the party saw it as an effective tactic toward the laboring populations. (They obviously did not consider that proposing to reduce social expenditures would translate into a similar reduction in the party's popularity.)

But it is in the area of foreign policy that the Gaullist attacks on the President are the most scandalous and where the left and right most closely converge.

Leading the attacks is new RPR General Secretary Bernard Pons. His first charge came right after the Dublin summit of European Community heads of state. There, Giscard and his friend West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had countered British efforts to wreck the Community. An unhappy Pons demanded that Giscard begin to "act as tough as Dame Thatcher when it comes to international negotiations."

At the latest RPR Central Committee meeting, Pons reproached the President for not siding with U.S. military and economic warfare tactics against Iran and then questioned Giscard's African policy, such as the decision to militarily intervene—when necessary—to remove a dictator like Bokassa of the Central African Empire or to stabilize a Chad.

In so doing, Pons added the RPR's voice to the

Second International's months-long campaign against French presence in Africa. Following the French intervention into the Central African Empire, the French Socialist Party and *Liberation* magazine attempted to spark a scandal investigation around charges that Bokassa had given a gift of diamonds to Giscard when he was finance minister of France 10 years ago.

This week, *Le Monde* ran a "sweet and sour" commentary by Gaullist Messmer, an associate of Chirac, on Giscard's African policy. "Looking over the recent past, the result (of French African policy) is rather favorable," he says. "Our African policy comforts our friends, discourages adventures, helps social and economic progress. But, for the future, it runs a grave danger. Direct or indirect military intervention wounds the pride of the Africans and provokes sharper and sharper criticisms. One day, an additional intervention, no matter how justified, will unleash a general furor. Should we be the object of that furor, it is French African policy as a whole which would be swept away like a tornado."

Messmer's remarks have little to do with fact. No African nation has protested French intervention to prevent an Iran-style destabilization, but rather it has been London and what remains of the British empire in Africa.

The left Gaullists

The tactics being pursued by the RPR Party have already led to a reconciliation between Chirac, a "right" Gaullist, and "left" Gaullist leader Charbonnel, a long time British agent. Pons' purpose is to bring the "left" Gaullists back into the mainstream as a bridge to the Socialist Party.

Since the Communist party rejected the common program with the Socialists, any possibility of a viable left candidate to oppose Giscard in the 1981 elections has been destroyed. With the help of Zionist agent and Secret Army Organization (OAS) operative Jacques Soustelle, the Socialists have been looking elsewhere.

Free-enterprise advocate Michel Rocard is "offering" a right wing alternative to party leader Mitterrand, using his connections into the French Businessmen's Association, the Barre Cabinet and the New York Council on Foreign Relations.

Rocard's ally Edmond Maire, head of the CFDT trade union, has been issuing calls for class war.

François Mitterrand is seeking a rapprochement with the Gaullists. Two weeks ago he met privately with his former public enemy Chirac and has been issuing proclamations calling for "Salut Public" coalitions and the like.

—Garance Phau