
D-Day 40th Anniversary

'Defend Europe from invasion today'

Colonel Marc Geneste is a 25-year career officer with the French Army who served in World War II, Indochina, and Algeria. Currently vice president of the Center for the Study of Total Strategy in Paris, Geneste is known as the father of the French neutron bomb, which he developed while working for the French Atomic Energy Commission. He is a member of "La France et son Armée," an association formed in 1983 to build European support for the U.S. beam-weapons defense program, as part of an overall defense concept for Western Europe.

Geneste toured the United States in April speaking on behalf of this concept, and was the guest of Lyndon LaRouche's presidential campaign for several public meetings focused on the defense crisis and the urgency of the beam program. He was interviewed in Paris by François Bierre.

EIR: It is now 40 years since D-Day and the liberation of Europe. What do you think is the lesson we ought to draw for our situation today in the West, and in Western Europe?

Geneste: The situation today is totally different, politically and militarily. The "liberation" of Continental Europe (assuming it would be occupied by the Warsaw Pact) would be infinitely more difficult, if not impossible, for two basic reasons:

1) In 1944, the Germans were fighting on two fronts. The bulk of the *Wehrmacht* was tied down in Russia. Nobody knows if Operation Overlord would Germany if the Atlantic Wall had been defended by all of Hitler's strength.

2) Forty years ago, military technology favored offense over defense. Namely, all static defenses like the Maginot Line or the Atlantic Wall could be "saturated" by the concentration of attack: armored divisions, firepower, airborne or seaborne assaults. Conventional warfare favors offense.

Today, the fantastic vulnerability of the main tool of offense—the soldier—to nuclear radiation changes the whole picture. For instance, three neutron shells could wipe out all the soldiers landed on D-Day on Omaha Beach without bothering the defenders in their concrete bunkers. Two dozen

would wipe out all of Eisenhower's forces landed in Normandy after one day of fighting. To say nothing of the vulnerability of surface ships concentrated in the channel! I think that in 1984, such an assault would be physically impossible. In other words, we had better prevent the Soviet Army from boarding the European coastline. Better to prevent invasion of Western Europe, which requires all the strength of the alliance, and no "decoupling" of course.

EIR: How would you view the spreading pacifist tendencies in Western Europe in light of this anniversary of D-Day?

Geneste: The "pacifists" have to think about this military fact. If Europe is invaded, it will be for good. . . . Pacifism is not the best tool against invasion. Remember Chamberlain's "peace in our time."

EIR: Western Europe was liberated then, but what does Soviet conventional and nuclear superiority mean for Western Europe today? What are the tasks facing the West?

Geneste: Soviet alleged conventional and nuclear superiority means today the military capability of taking over continental Europe, if we play the current NATO game. The only way to cope with this threat is to exploit the Achilles heel of their military power, which is the vulnerability of offense to the modern tools of defense. Namely, neutron bombs against land forces and beam weapons against missiles. This is the best deterrent, provided modern technology is clearly backed with the political will to use it, which is not the case today. . . .

EIR: The tactics applied in World War II are thus completely inappropriate to the defense of Western Europe today, but there are apparently widespread illusions in Western Europe which lead, particularly in the Federal Republic of Germany, to tirades of rejection against the U.S. beam-weapon program for the defense of Europe. What would you say is the basis of these illusions, and how is that relevant to the lesson of D-Day?

Geneste: The "conventional deterrent" currently proposed by the United States and apparently widely accepted in some European quarters, especially in Germany, is a suicidal fallacy. It has been the dream of Soviet planners for 30 years to get rid of the threat of NATO tactical nuclear weapons, which have been their nightmare. Their crusade against the "N-bomb" has delayed the building of this defensive asset against land forces for more than 20 years. Today they strive to delay as long as possible the deployment of weapons able to nullify the political and physical power of SS-20s. It is a shame to see that they find so many allies in our own ranks. . . ! Our duty, for the sake of peace, is to defend Europe from invasion, and to defend the Russians from temptation to use their crushing military power. The only cheap solution has to be found in modern military defense technologies. . . . It is as simple as that!