

Report from Paris by Yves Messer

Mitterrand answers Weinberger

Moscow likes it—de Gaulle wouldn't have; the French foreign policy institutes all push strategic impotence.

On Oct. 15 French President François Mitterrand, for the first time since he took office in 1981, met the former collaborator of the Soviet secret police and Andropov protégé, Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Labor Party. Welcoming Mr. Kadar as an obvious emissary of "Pax Sovietica," Mitterrand formally agreed that space weapons should be negotiated, controlled, and reduced as quickly as possible.

The event must be read as a direct negative answer to U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's visit to Europe a few days before. At the meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group in Stresa, Italy, on Oct. 12, Weinberger explained to the European NATO members that it was quite impossible that the U.S. laser-beam space shield would not protect Europe, as the "de-coupling" faction around Kissinger and NATO Secretary-General Carrington claims. He added that anti-ballistic missile defense of Europe is a first priority for U.S. security itself.

So, how can President Mitterrand refuse such an offer?

The most polite way to put it is that France has not yet shed the "Maginot line" syndrome. France is still waiting for a de Gaulle-like hero from the outside to save it from its impotent taste for the "balance of power" so much praised by the Vichy regime that collaborated with the Nazis.

Nothing could reveal this impotence more than think tanks like the "Institute of Geopolitics" of former presidential candidate Marie-France Garaud and General Gallois, founded

by Carter's national security aide Zbigniew Brzezinski, or the pompous Lellouche's IFRI (Institut français des relations internationales).

After President Reagan's March 23, 1983 speech announcing the new defense doctrine called "Star Wars" by the liberal press, "official" debate in France has split into two factions: the old so-called Gaullists like General Gallois who identify the spirit of the late Charles de Gaulle only in the obsolete *force de frappe*, and the Swiss-British faction (Henry Kissinger's masters), who manipulate this conceptual weakness by claiming that Reagan's proposal was designed to break the Atlantic alliance and retreat into economic protectionism. The latter lie is that beam weapons would upset the eternal deterrence of the French strike force and would only protect U.S. territory.

So when Kissinger tells Mitterrand he is for beam weapons as a bargaining chip to negotiate with the Soviets—and has the nerve to evoke how "de Gaulle let it be understood to NATO" that Europe must become a strong industrial and military power independent from United States—Mitterrand listens to him.

Nonetheless, France remains the most advanced country in Europe in laser-beam research precisely because of de Gaulle's legacy. This reality lies behind the very positive response in high levels of the French military to *EIR's* Paris seminars on beam weapons, and most recently, to the Schiller Institute of Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the only foreign policy think tank committed to reviving the Western alli-

ance in the face of the Soviet military threat. A Paris press conference by the Schiller Institute in late September drew over 30 representatives of international media, military, and various institutions.

This is what some people can't stand—like the Socialist Party's so-called defense specialist, Lellouche of IFRI, the French "Council on Foreign Relations," a close buddy of Kissinger and the U.S. State Department. The Oct. 15 *Le Point* magazine ran three pages of Lellouche gossiping on an alleged American plan to push Europe out of the race, leaving the allies "naked and open to the Soviet threat of thousands of nuclear missiles."

To hornswaggle the Gaullist old-timers, in late September the Institut Charles de Gaulle organized a colloquium on "Deterrence" where officials who had helped to build the *force de frappe*, and other less credible spokesmen like General Gallois, testified on the need to continue the nuclear deterrent which Reagan's doctrine would render obsolete. Not a word was said about beam defense against nuclear missiles. Henri Ziegler, the founder of the French aerospace agency (SNIAS), tried to introduce the topic, but his question was ruled "off the subject."

The irony is that Gallois was recently proven by *EIR* to have *opposed* this same *force de frappe* at the time of de Gaulle. In reality, de Gaulle's concept of the French strike force was aimed at forcing the United States to protect Europe while President Kennedy was giving away the store as a result of the Cuban missile crisis. Today, with Kissinger planning to divert troops to Central America to "prove" America will "fight communist subversion," beam-weapons defense is the only *Gaullist* military policy for France.