

Report from Paris by Yves Messer

'Greenpeace affair' boosts Barre

On the eve of Gorbachov's visit to Paris, Trilateralist Raymond Barre is angling for power.

On the eve of Soviet boss Gorbachov's visit to Paris, France is facing two potential major destabilizing crises, both fostered by the Trilateral Commission: first, the institutional destabilization triggered by the ongoing "Greenpeace affair," and second, a potentially explosive wave of social protest and strikes, expected in September-October, caused by the alarming domestic economic situation and exploited by the Communist Party and their trade union, the CGT.

When on Aug. 29 Trilateral Commission member and Washington lawyer Lloyd Cutler emerged as the free-of-charge attorney for Greenpeace against the French government, the so-called "Greenpeace affair" shifted from a local French embroglio into an international strategic security issue that vitally concerns the strategic interests of the United States.

It should be recalled that the Greenpeace affair was sparked by the sinking of the Greenpeace *Rainbow Warrior* ship on July 10, in the port of Auckland in New Zealand. According to British and New Zealand intelligence services, the deed was done by the French intelligence service, the DGSE—which does not mean that is necessarily true.

The significance of Cutler's impending arrival in Paris is not totally lost on the French media. The Sept. 5-11 weekly *V.S.D.* commented, "By his network of informants, Lloyd Cutler has the means, beyond his task as lawyer, to play the role of a veritable private inquisitor." In fact, Cutler's

interference into France's affairs is part of a major offensive by the "new Yalta" faction in the West, operating through the Trilateral Commission, against President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and the Western Alliance, on behalf of the Soviet Union.

For France, this offensive involves in concrete terms: 1) the destruction of General de Gaulle's heritage, and hence of the Fifth Republic's institutions which still guarantee France's national sovereignty; 2) France's withdrawal from all of its overseas territories, such as New Caledonia and French Polynesia, where the neutron bomb is being tested in Mururoa; and 3) ensuring that another Trilateral Commission member, Raymond Barre, will become the next President of France.

Indeed, Raymond Barre, who belongs to the Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF), is the political figure who would surely benefit most from a crisis in France. For one thing, he could trap his direct rival in the opposition, Gaullist party (RPR) President Jacques Chirac, into a "government of cohabitation" stretching from 1986-88. In that case, he could then increasingly appear to Frenchmen as sole alternative to guarantee the stability of the state institutions.

Barre likes to cultivate his image as a new political heir to de Gaulle. In fact, nothing could be more untrue. General Charles de Gaulle hated and opposed precisely the very same "American financial interests" which are now backing Raymond Barre's

Trilateral Commission, such as the Bundys and the McNamaras, who here in France are known as the "Kennedy team."

From a strategic standpoint, Barre is directly tied in with the Greenpeace destabilization. He publicly opposes President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, favoring instead Kissinger's old ABM treaty. He supports IMF conditionalities for Ibero-America in Venezuela, and in the Sept. 6-19 weekly *L'Expansion*, he praised not Reagan's, but Paul Volcker's economic policies, pointing out that the Fed chief had been nominated by another Trilateral creature, Jimmy Carter.

The Trilateral Commission is also linked into the second potential danger to France's stability. The Communist trade union CGT has announced a very hot autumn for every troubled firm in France, but especially at the top auto firm Renault, where 20,000 workers are slated to be laid off.

On Sept. 9 in Paris, Philippe Herzog, the official economist of the French Communist party, held a press conference at which he accused Chase Manhattan bank of being responsible for the dismantling of Renault, with the blessings of the Mitterrand government. After having originally lured Renault into a foray into the U.S. auto market, Chase is now allegedly blackmailing Renault into keeping its investments in the United States, while forcing it to dismantle its European branches.

And according to *Le Canard Enchaîné*, none other than Raymond Barre has now made "fruitful contacts" with the CGT, claiming that he, too, opposes the dismantling of Renault. As it turns out, Philippe Herzog was a former student of Barre, and even wrote a preface to one of his books.