

Report from Paris by Mark Burdman and Yves Messer

The Vichyous M. Raymond Barre

Why does he echo Marshal Pétain, and not end up with a rope around his neck?

Not surprisingly, among the most insidious of the political interventions made during France's current legislative-election combats have those been made by Raymond Barre, who owes his loyalties not to the Republic of France, but to the international insurance cartels.

In mid-December, Barre stunned Frenchmen by declaring, during a meeting in the south-central city of Lyon, "Yes to work, yes to family, yes to country" ("Oui au travail, oui à la famille, oui à la patrie"). He then added, "but in a Free France, because only free men would want this."

Asked on French television, approximately one month later, whether or not he had actually meant to say these words, Barre responded that, indeed, he stuck by his words.

Outside France, these words may not seem particularly controversial. Inside France, however, the phrase, "Yes to work, yes to family, yes to country," is known to everybody. It was the pet slogan of Marshal Philippe Pétain, the man who headed the Hitler-collaborator Vichy regime of the 1940s.

And, Barre received praise, soon after making his statement, from an association of "Friends of Marshal Pétain," who seek to restore the collaborator's reputation today.

But Barre is clever. The second part of Barre's Lyon declaration, that about a "Free France," is borrowed from Charles de Gaulle, Pétain's implacable foe! Barre, in this statement

and in his campaign generally, is trying to portray himself as the continuity of both traditions, Vichy and Gaullist France—something like an American President claiming the legacy of both George Washington and Benedict Arnold.

Barre, in no sense, is a French politician. Closer to reality, he might be called a Swiss-French politician, controlled out of Venice, and useful to Moscow. A bit confusing, but true.

Raymond Barre is the leading political representative in France of "The Trust," that East-West "business" agency developed in the past decades to build up Soviet imperial might. He is the most enthusiastic member within France of David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission, which has been exposed, in various French journalistic exposés, as an arm of what we call "The Trust." He is honorary president of The Geneva Association, also known as The Association of Insurance Company Economists, whose head, Orio Giarini, is the chief economist of the Club of Rome, the insurance companies' Malthusian think-tank. To complete the circle, there is a strong overlap of French insurance executives and French members of the Trilateral Commission, such as Bernard Pagezy, a member of The Geneva Association's administrative council, and head of the *Groupe de Paris* insurance group.

As a representative of "outside" forces, Barre is not using the present moment to win legislative votes. His

followers, in the March Chamber of Deputies elections, are expected to gain no more than 25-30% of the vote total of the Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF) party, the opposition party in which most "Barristes" are placed. Barre has showed his contempt for the current legislative process, by declaring, in mid-January, that he had no intention of supporting a new government, after March, run by RPR (Gaullist Party) head Jacques Chirac, should one be formed.

Barre's key aim is to run for President in later presidential elections; he has been lobbying to have presidential elections earlier than the anticipated 1988 date.

Barre's corollary aim, is to use his campaigns, to effect certain political and "paradigm" shifts in French politics. With his above-cited statement, he intends to confuse France's younger generation of voters, for whom the Vichy period is not a memory. He is hoping to blur, and confuse, the tradition of Gaullism, to eradicate a living notion of Charles de Gaulle in the French population.

Barre is running on a platform of "denationalizing" the French insurance industry, which was nationalized right after the war in 1945. He sees this as a step toward total removing the state from France's economy.

Ultimately, by mixing the famous statements of arch-collaborator and appeaser Pétain with those of de Gaulle, Barre's message is that he, Raymond Barre, is offering himself to the French people, and to the Russians, as the head of France's *next collaborator government*, this time, with France as a satrap to the Russian Empire. It would be sold, this time, through the brainwashing of mock-Gaullist verbiage, to make it seem palatable to the French population, but, in reality, it would be just as Vichyous as before, if not worse.