## Report from Paris by Our Special Correspondent

## Fight for Cattenom wins German allies

Patriots for Germany support France in defense of a nuclear power plant that Moscow doesn't want.

On Sept. 12, a joint press conference was held by France's Jacques Cheminade, general secretary of the Parti Ouvrier Européen (POE), and Ortrun Cramer from West Germany, speaking for the Patriots for Germany. The press conference took place in Metz, France, the capital of Lorrain, the site of the Cattenom nuclear power station.

Both speakers' strong support for completing Cattenom and bringing it on line marked a key intervention into a mobilization by German Social Democrats and Greens to stop Cattenom, which is right next to the German border. Cramer charged that the anti-Cattenom drive is part of the low-intensity warfare of the Soviets against Germany, "whether by small arson attacks against police or military installations, small, homemade bombs against industry working for nuclear power stations, or-a very common act these days-the sabotage against electricity pylons." She quoted from the Patriots for Germany statement on Cattenom: "Moscow wants to rule over an economically weakened Western Europe, which is isolated from the United States, and torn in internal fights. Besides the danger of the 'big decoupling' of the Federal Republic from the United States, we now see emerging the 'small decoupling'-of West Germany from France. Cattenom is being used as a sledgehammer to ram this policy through.'

The regional TV station FR3 reported that the POE and the Patriots for Germany had charged that the Greens and ecologists against Cattenom were "manipulated by Moscow." FR3 broadcast an interview in which Cramer charged that the protesters only pose as ecologists, while in reality, they are pursuing strategic aims. She corrected the belief of many French people that the majority of the Germans are anti-nuclear. "The population is pro-nuclear, and they disagree with the Greens' methods."

The regional newspaper, *Republicain Lorrain*, also quoted Cramer: "We will not capitulate to these attacks, neither in Germany nor in France. The majority of opinion favors nuclear power, favors Cattenom, but it is silent. We want to make it courageous."

Days before the press conference in Metz, a court in Strasbourg had rejected a suit against the plant by Saarland energy minister Jo Leinen, some municipalities in Luxembourg, and the German states of Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland. The French TV broadcast with Cramer reached into nearby Saarland, where it will certainly come to the attention of Gov. Oskar Lafontaine, who has been leading the fight against Cattenom, that he is being exposed in France.

Jacques Cheminade stressed in the press conference that only if European countries join to develop nuclear energy as well as other high-technology fields, will they be able to master the tasks of the future, i.e., industrialize the underdeveloped parts of the world. In this spirit, Germany's Konrad Adenauer and France's Charles de Gaulle had worked to establish a German-French friendship destined to last for generations. Unfortunately, the fight over Cattenom has done much to harm this spirit of cooperation and friendship: In France, especially in the Lorrain, the general public tends to think that if the Germans do not want nuclear energy, "we will develop our own program instead," and takes up isolationist attitudes.

Right after the Strasbourg court ruling, radical ecologists announced more protest actions against Cattenom. Problems during test runs of parts of the supply systems for the power plant-not of any reactor parts so farhave been played up widely in the German press, to make it seem that the Cattenom plant's safety systems were inadequate. After a first incident during a test run of the cooling system, when a valve had not been closed and water ran into the basement of the plant, a short-circuit occurred in some elecricity line, which German media presented as major safety problems.

The latest protest took place over the Sept. 13-14 weekend, when around 4,000 demonstrators from Luxembourg, West Germany, and France formed a "human chain" in the socalled "Three Countries Corner." There was no violence, but nobody ever reported how many of the demonstrators were French—usually an extremely small percentage.

French Premier Chirac addressed the German population on behalf of Cattenom in an interview in the widely circulated tabloid Bild am Sonntag. His statement will undoubtedly get under the skin of many Germans, especially those of the older generation: "Those people, who want France to get its energy out of windmills and solar energy, remind me of Morgenthau, who proposed that West Germany should become an agricultural country." He stressed that German-French relations could develop more in industrial cooperation, especially in the area of space travel.

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