

France, Germany Move To Overhaul Europe

by Rainer Apel

The first state visit of French President Jacques Chirac to Germany, on June 26-27, is certain to make history, not least because of the fact that he made public reference to another historic event in Franco-German relations, namely, the state visit of President Charles de Gaulle almost 40 years ago. Chirac presented himself very strongly in the tradition of de Gaulle, concerning intensified cooperation with Germany, particularly on projects of European self-assertion and integration.

Taking de Gaulle as a point of reference, has implications for France's and Germany's relations to Britain: De Gaulle was firmly opposed to granting the British membership in the European Economic Community (the EEC of 1957, today's European Union [EU]), because he knew that London's free-market fanaticism would ruin the regulated continental European economies, once the British were allowed to co-determine Community policies. It was in this context, of France's "no" to the British application for EEC membership, that de Gaulle pursued a strong alliance with Germany, which led to the signing of the Franco-German Treaty of January 1963—which London viewed as something akin to a declaration of war. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who cooperated closely with de Gaulle, was overthrown in late 1963 by an Anglophile conspiracy inside the two governing parties, the Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats. But de Gaulle stayed in power, and although the Franco-German project was slowed down considerably after Adenauer's departure, Britain did not succeed in joining the EEC until 1973, four years after de Gaulle's resignation as President of France. And, only four years later, in 1977, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing revitalized the Franco-German alliance, with their proposal for a European Monetary System and a European Monetary Fund—a proposal that was the more embarrassing to London, as it was considerably shaped by conceptual groundwork done in continental Europe by the movement of Lyndon LaRouche, between early 1974 and the summer of 1977.

The memory of these developments may not always be uppermost in the minds of members of the German political and industrial elites, but it is among the British establishment, which is always alarmed at the slightest prospect of closer cooperation between France and Germany.

On the diplomatic level, Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair is trying to slow down the new Franco-German initia-

tive, meeting "privately" with Chirac in London on June 15, and also "privately" with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, in Berlin on June 29. The plan to talk Chirac out of the initiative did not work out well, apparently, as the two speeches that he gave in Berlin on June 27 showed. In reaction, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook declared on the same day in London: "The objective of this government is to continue to keep Britain a leading player in Europe, on the same par as France or Germany or Italy." The British Cabinet resolved that same day, that Blair's June 29 meeting with Schröder was to make clear that Britain's veto power over any European initiative that did not have the full consent of London, would be maintained. As we explained in *EIR* on June 24, the issue revolves around the Franco-German political efforts to strengthen the euro, to which they—and not the British—belong. Britain has manipulated the EU for years, playing the "coy virgin" over whether to join the euro bloc (and now even flirting with joining the North American Free Trade Agreement). It now insists that its right to determine euro policy, via the veto power that all 15 EU members have within the "Ecofin" committee, supersedes the rights of the 11 members of the euro zone.

In short, as the London *Daily Telegraph* wrote on June 28, Blair's mission to Berlin was to make clear that "France and Germany do not have a God-given right to get their way every time."

If that is the last word of wisdom in London, it will not work to the benefit of Britain: Stubbornly insisting that the set of EU agreements signed at Maastricht in 1992 and in Amsterdam in 1997 (which institutionalized the British veto) will not prevent the French and Germans from moving ahead, as the Franco-German initiative for an overhaul of those same agreements has already taken on a dynamic of its own. Mem-



President of France Jacques Chirac. Recent moves by France and Germany to protect themselves from the Maastricht and Amsterdam agreements, have the British upset.

ory of the British support for the recent speculative attacks on the continental single currency, the euro, is still too fresh in Paris and Berlin, to allow politicians to be open-minded about anything that Blair says.

The ‘Great European Adventure’

The June 27 speech that Chirac gave to the German Bundestag (parliament), the first such speech by a foreign state guest after the move of the government from Bonn to Berlin in the summer of 1999, gave an insight into this new Franco-German dynamic. He said that his “ambition, based on the Franco-German friendship, is to push ahead and pursue this great European adventure,” adding that, as France and Germany have been the motor of European integration to date, they shall also create a new impulse for the Europe of tomorrow.

The completion of the French EU presidency’s agenda—size of the future EU Commission, majority vote, weighting of votes according to population size of EU members—for the Nice summit in December, is France’s immediate priority, Chirac said. But, early next year, the larger project, of reviewing all the existing EU treaties, and of creating what he called a “pioneer group of nations” to work on closer cooperation on economics, foreign, defense, and anti-crime policies, shall be launched. This special group, with France and Germany at its center, shall have a standing secretariat, to coordinate the initiatives, and to keep in contact with other EU governments that are considering joining the pioneer group. “Those who want to proceed further with integration, must be allowed to do so without being held back by those who do not want to proceed as quickly. Together with Germany and France, they could form a pioneering group.”

Chirac also strongly defended the nation-state as the real identity of Europeans, saying that it can not, and shall not be replaced by a supranational structure called “Europe,” a “European super-state.” Then, in what can only be read as a hint that whatever in the Maastricht and Amsterdam agreements obstructs the nation-state will be removed, Chirac said that the “Europe that has existed to date, has been one of the politicians and elites, but it shall now become one of the citizens.” Strengthening the role of the nation-state is essential for achieving that, he said.

In a second speech the same day, at the annual convention of the German Industrial Association in Berlin, Chirac said that the Franco-German initiative is vital for the defense of the “European social model” against the threats from the globalized free market. Thus, the gauntlet has openly been thrown down at London’s feet.

If Britain continues opposing whatever France and Germany initiate, the gulf between the continent and the isle is certain to grow. The continent can only benefit from that, and if the British oligarchs themselves, caught up in the obstinacy their own free-market ideology, help to fuel German-French cooperation, it can only be welcomed.

Princess Diana Murder Cover-Up Turns Deadly

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Nearly three years after the Paris car crash that claimed the lives of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed, the cover-up of that tragedy has taken a deadly turn, prompting some experts to recall the pileup of corpses that followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Over the course of four years, after President Kennedy was shot on Nov. 22, 1963, at least 37 eyewitnesses and other sources of evidence about the crime, including one member of the infamous Warren Commission, which oversaw the cover-up, died under mysterious circumstances.

On May 5, 2000, police in the south of France found a badly burned body inside the wreckage of a car, deep in the woods near Nantes. The body was so charred that it took police nearly a month before DNA tests confirmed that the dead man was Jean-Paul “James” Andanson, a 54-year-old millionaire photographer, who was among the paparazzi stalking Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed during the week before their deaths.

From the day of the fatal crash in the Place de l’Alma tunnel, that killed Diana, Dodi, and driver Henri Paul, and severely injured bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, Andanson had been at the center of the controversy.

Mohamed Al-Fayed, the father of Dodi Fayed, and the owner of Harrods Department Store in London and the Paris Ritz Hotel, has labelled the Aug. 31, 1997 crash a murder, ordered by the British royal family, and most likely executed through agents and assets of the British secret intelligence service MI6—with collusion from French officials, whose cooperation in the cover-up would have been essential.

At least seven eyewitnesses to the crash said that they saw a white Fiat Uno and a motorcycle speed out of the tunnel, seconds after the crash. Forensic tests have confirmed that a white Fiat Uno collided with the Mercedes carrying Diana and Dodi, and that this collision was a significant factor in the crash. Several eyewitnesses told police that they saw a powerful flash of light just seconds before the Mercedes swerved out of control and crashed into the 13th pillar of the Alma tunnel. That bright light—either a camera flash or a far more powerful flash of a laser weapon—was probably fired by the passenger on the back of the speeding motorcycle. Both the motorcycle and the white Fiat fled the crash scene, and police claim they have been unable to locate either vehicle, or identify the drivers or the passengers.