

EMS leaders organize Europe from Atlantic to Urals

France, West Germany dethroning imperial Britain

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt are moving swiftly to organize Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals" for a program of peace and development to bring the world safely into the third millennium.

Chancellor Schmidt indicated the intentions behind the current series of Franco-German deployments in an interview to *Der Spiegel* magazine on Jan. 15. Enunciating in the clearest way to date the underlying military-strategic intentions of the new European Monetary System, Schmidt stated that he "was not sure" the present military blocs would necessarily persist into the turn of the century. The blocs may prove temporary as a real détente unfolds under European leadership.

While Schmidt spoke, the French government had dispatched a delegation of disarmament experts to Moscow to initiate discussions for the European disarmament conference first proposed by Giscard at the United Nations this past summer. At the same time, Schmidt sent a personal envoy to negotiate enhanced economic and political cooperation between East and West Germany.

Disarmament and détente

West German Minister of Inter-German Affairs Wischniewski and East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fisher met on Jan. 15 to discuss developing relations. On the agenda was Fisher's suggestion to upgrade diplomatic representation to the ambassadorial level at both capitals.

Earlier, Schmidt himself stated on French television that he attaches much importance to the relations between the two Germans. They share the unenviable position of being "potential theaters of war for the Armies of East and West," Schmidt said.

The effort for an overall disarmament accord including the Soviet Union is being organized by the French who dispatched the Foreign Ministry's disarmament specialist Jacques de la Ferriere to Moscow. Meeting with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko and other officials, the French envoy is to work out an agreement with the Soviets around the "Atlantic to the Urals" European conference proposed by Giscard. Various press sources have reported that Schmidt was enthusiastic about the proposal when Giscard first brought it up at the Guadeloupe four-power summit two weeks ago.

Building European unity

As of Jan. 1, France and its Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet assumed the leadership of the European Community from Britain. He is taking full advantage of that six-month long responsibility to aggressively organize Europe behind the full and immediate realization of the European Monetary System (EMS).

Francois-Poncet is determined to solve the minor Franco-German differences over the agricultural compensation negotiations and get the new monetary system and the European

Francois-Poncet: Latin America an important European ally

French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Francois-Poncet was the guest of honor at a dinner offered by the Ambassadors of Latin American countries in Paris on Jan. 12. During his speech Francois-Poncet delineated the following points of France's policy toward Latin America:

After asserting the basic solidarity that exists between France and Latin America based on history, culture, and common interests, the minister called for an increase in cultural and technological cooperation.

A great complementarity must be arranged between the countries of Europe and Latin America, particularly in the economic field. Europe and Latin American collaboration should include the participation of European industry and science in the "rapid economic expansion" and the "development of the natural resources" of the Latin American continent.

Through the common experience shared by the countries of Europe and Latin America, both can help "bring to international life a strength of analysis, thought, and balance that imposes itself beyond certain divergences."

In conclusion, Francois-Poncet expressed his conviction that the enlargement of the European Commission (to include especially Spain) will contribute to the reinforcement of ties between both continents.

currency, the ECU, rolling within a short time, reports one commentator on French government radio. At the European Community's Foreign Minister meeting on Jan. 16, Francois-Poncet first shut up Britain's David Owen who was raising ludicrous questions on the agricultural prices policy. Francois-Poncet told him that "since Britain doesn't participate in the EMS it has no right to make any demands."

The problem of the agricultural compensation question was then handled swiftly and efficiently. Francois-Poncet decided to convene a joint financial, agricultural, and foreign ministers meeting to settle the issue in the coming days.

Speaking to the European press on the meaning of France's presidency of the community, Francois-Poncet said he intended to accomplish the following tasks in the months ahead:

- 1) Realize the EMS.
- 2) Renegotiate the Lomé convention with 56 developing nations by July.
- 3) Bring Spain, Portugal and Greece into the European Community.
- 4) Negotiate more ambitious cooperation accords between the EC, Yugoslavia, and Romania (which Giscard is visiting Jan. 17) and also undertake talks with Comecon.
- 5) Set up economic development and energy plans for Europe.

Toward the Third World

With the ushering in of the EMS, the French have been taking responsibility for Third World stability and development. Following the visit of the Iraqi Vice President Maarouf to Paris to discuss cooperation between Europe and the Arab world, the French began to focus upon Latin America as a desirable and necessary European ally. Giscard d'Estaing is now preparing his official visit to Mexico in February which is intended to renew the French tradition of republican alliances for progress with that leading Latin American country.

On Jan. 12, Francois-Poncet was the guest of honor at a dinner given by all the Latin American ambassadors to Paris. Francois-Poncet stressed that what had to be done was to "expand the complementarity between the countries of Europe and Latin America" through European industry and science participation in the "rapid economic expansion" and "development of the natural resources" of that continent.

Even the traditionally conservative and timorous French businessmen's union has joined the movement, calling its members to face the "new industrial adventure." Association leader Ceyrac told a national congress of the organization that the two challenges of the future are the emerging industrialization of the Third World and the need to develop the most advanced technologies at home, like electronics and computers.

Looking into the future

In the minds of the architects of the European Monetary System, planning for future generations, for the world's entry into the third millennium — a constant reference in Giscard and Schmidt's speeches — is the only true way to secure the world against the danger that the U.S. Administration will blunder into a nuclear war with the Soviet Union through British manipulations of the White House.

— *Garance Upham*

France and Germany: Global diplomacy for peace and progress

Especially since the institutionalization of the European Monetary System on Jan. 2, French President Giscard and West German Chancellor Schmidt have been dispatching their diplomats and government officials on a round of meetings, talks, and dinners with their counterparts in the advanced sector, the Third World, and the East bloc. The topic: peace and development for the world.

Jan. 9

Iraqi Vice President Maarouf arrives in Paris for three days of talks with French government officials on cooperation between Europe and the Arab World to ensure the stability of the Middle East.

Jan. 16

French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet addresses a dinner of Latin American Ambassadors to France proposing to expand the relations between the countries of Europe and Latin America through Europe's industrial and scientific participation in the economic development of Latin America.

Jan. 15

French Foreign Ministry disarmament specialist Jacques de la Ferriere is dispatched to Moscow for talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko and others on the proposed "Atlantic to the Urals" disarmament conference.

West German Minister of Inter-German Affairs Wischniewski meets with East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fisher on developing relations and upgrading diplomatic representation to ambassadorial status.

Jan. 16

European Community's Foreign Ministers meet under French leadership to further organize the EMS. Britain's David Owen told not to interfere.

Jan. 17

French President Giscard begins visit to Romania, a potential point of destabilization against the East bloc.

February

French President Giscard to visit Mexico to further French diplomatic and economic relations with that leading Latin American nation.