

## 'Western security demands real defense'

*The second national rally of the France-U.S.A. Association was held in Paris on March 30 on the theme of "solidarity with the United States for the defense of liberty and peace." In a much-applauded speech, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, the president of the Action Committee of the Resistance and founding member of the Comité France et son Armée (France and Her Army Committee), retraced the heroic role of the French Resistance in the Allied operations in preparing for Operation Overlord, June 6, 1944.*

*The participants were determined to reinforce ties in the face of the Soviet threat. "Everything must be done to improve the indispensable 'coupling' between the strategic system of the United States and the defense of Europe," Mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac affirmed in a message of support to the conference.*

*"What should we say about peace?" Beam-weapons defense is an essential element of the "race to security," she affirmed. General Delaunay, former Chief of General Staff of the Land Army, echoed her: "Concerning beam weapons, it is possible that the Soviets are capable of a technological breakthrough." This involves a domain, he specified, "such as to completely change our military strategy," and nuclear weapons must be rounded out by these new defensive weapons.*

In 1984, the survival of the Free World and that of the oppressed countries as well depends very much on the close cooperation of Europe with the United States of America, to put the finishing touches in the shortest term on a new strategy. . . . Now the new strategy defined by President Reagan on March 23, 1983 brings us a breath of hope. For the first time after more than 30 years, his firm declaration allows us to speak of "mutually assured survival," and no longer of "mutual destruction."

France has been very slow to understand this historic appeal, and on behalf of myself and a handful of friends and specialists who immediately adhered to this idea, I welcome

the recent official statements by those responsible for French political life, whether President Mitterrand, when he spoke of an armed satellite set into an appropriate orbit, or [mayor of Paris and head of the opposition RPR party] M. Jacques Chirac, when he alluded to the new protective weapons. . . .

In Europe these weapons, commonly called beam weapons, were first held up to ridicule. . . . They were treated as "Star Wars" and "science fiction." Later, there were denials: "Maybe, but they won't be ready for a half-century, therefore they have no interest for us!" And then the pernicious insinuations sowing doubt: "Might it not be an invention of the KGB to make us neglect modernization of the existing nuclear arsenal and annihilate the material we have built up and send it to the junkheap?" Now, no one in our camp has ever put out the idea that right now we should change whatever the existing programs are! The problem merely consists in juxtaposing to these programs weapons developed to destroy intercontinental missiles in their boost phase, that is to say, in the first minutes of their flight, and essentially in the vertical phase of launching. . . .

Several types of launchers are foreseen. . . . We know that the Americans prefer [to satellites placed in orbit] simple rockets fired vertically at the last moment, which launch into space—above the stratosphere—a kind of "porcupine" of which each "quill" points toward an adversary missile or toward a zone of space, in the case of a massive firing. Then the apparatus explodes and coherent bundles of x-ray lasers take off from each "quill" or "porcupine" and hit the enemy missiles with their deadly impact. . . .

France is not badly situated in this race. . . . Her scientists and researchers already have a long experience with particle beams, lasers, plasma physics, and electromagnetic waves.

A bond of trust with our allies is thus imposed upon us. We hope that it will be established and developed as soon as possible, for France can and must play its role in this race for security. . . .

Germany can participate in this resurgence of the defensive; while not being able to enter the "Atomic Club" because of treaties, she has in compensation full latitude to bring complete transformations to the art of war. These transformations mean that never again will anything be as it was before, hence a new phenomenon for present generations with respect to commonly accepted ideas. It is vital for them to measure the immense consequences of this, as when, in former times, General de Gaulle imperatively demanded that we commit ourselves to tank defense, and as my own network, in 1943, informed the English of the truth about the Nazi secret weapons, the V-1 and V-2, which could have blocked the victory of the [Normandy] landing. . . .

[France and her European partners] must convince themselves that today, by exception, by chance, by miracle, defense is the key to our salvation.