

Cheminade's Presidential Campaign Is Creating an Uproar in France

by our European Bureau

March 11—When Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade, the well-known French co-thinker of Lyndon LaRouche, arrived at the Constitutional Council in Paris to register his candidacy on the morning of March 8, it was a huge media event; over 20 reporters and camera crews were there to film his entry, and deluge him with questions. At the press conference he gave on his way out, he announced that the batch of sponsorships for his Presidential candidacy he had just delivered, brought the total number to 538. Since then, hundreds of articles have appeared covering his Presidential bid, and numerous interviews have been aired.

The threshold for gaining a place on the French Presidential ballot, whose first round of elections occurs on April 22, is 500 valid signatures of local elected officials, and Cheminade is one of the few “minor candidates” to have succeeded so far. As of March 12, Cheminade had submitted 560 signatures, and that number may grow by the March 19 deadline. France’s most influential press agency, Agence France Presse (AFP), was the first to announce the news, announcing in its release that: “the candidate proposes the ‘use of public productive credit, as during the Thirty Glorious Years [of post-war growth] in order to rebuild our economy by financing great infrastructure projects, fundamental research, public services, and skilled jobs.’”

“He also proposes ‘a strict separation between deposit banks, and investment banks and insurance companies,’ and a return to national currencies, with the euro remaining as ‘a common reference for major projects involving several countries.’”

This part of the release immediately made the rounds of the other media in their on-line editions, and



Jacques Cheminade is met by a crush of reporters as he arrives at the Constitutional Council in Paris March 8 to register his candidacy for President of France.

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Cheminade is now clearly identified with these issues. The candidate is also directing public attention to the danger of a Third World War, a threat being avoided by most media and candidates, with the exception of former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

A New de Gaulle

“I’m in the spirit of June 1940,” Cheminade told the packed press conference (which actually took place on the sidewalk outside the building), hearkening back to the time when Charles de Gaulle flew to London to rally his countrymen to the resistance against the fascist occupation of France. As can be seen in the video statement he prepared for the conference of the Schiller Institute (see below), Cheminade is raising the standard of France from the best of its history, and demanding that it fulfill its role as a leading nation in the creation of a new, just economic order, based on an international Glass-Steagall standard and cooperation among nation-states for great development projects. No longer can the

French people tolerate a government, like that of Nicolas Sarkozy, which is behaving as a vile servant of the British Empire.

Some of the media coverage is extremely nasty, filled with innuendo, if not outright slanders, especially in the state-run channels. But at least part of the “powers that be” in France, who are very worried by the breakdown of the financial system overall, and in particular in the Eurozone, and by the danger of war, apparently want Cheminade’s warnings to go out . . . at least for now.

Most interviewers would rather stick to banal “anecdotes” avoiding the “heavy ideas” with which Cheminade is defying the entire political elite, but Cheminade should have the chance to present them, once the list of qualified candidates is announced, and the official campaign begins on March 20. From then on until April 8, the major media must give all candidates equal time, although with more advantageous time slots for the major candidates, and from April 8 to 21, equal time slots, to present their programs, to all candidates. This represents an unprecedented opening for all of LaRouche’s allies worldwide.

Until now, the greatest buzz created was the interview Cheminade gave to well-known attack dog Pascale Clark of France Inter on her early morning prime-time radio show March 9, when she asked the candidate why Lyndon LaRouche compared Obama to Hitler. Calmly and precisely, Cheminade went on to explain why Obama deserves the moustache: his health policy of social triage, his unconstitutional assassination of U.S. citizens, the drone attacks, and the war drive.

Interestingly enough, the release AFP put out on that intervention, which quoted Cheminade’s reply in full and without commenting it, was also picked up by hundreds of websites.

A ‘Tour de France’

Now, in the coming six weeks until the first round of the Presidential election, the political landscape of France will be turned upside down by the Cheminade campaign, mobilizing the citizenry to defend the republic against the “oligarchy of incompetents” and alerting them to the danger of war. During that time, Cheminade’s campaign team of 15-20 young adults will be criss-crossing the nation, bringing Cheminade’s message to every nook and cranny.

That team began its nationwide effort with phone calls to some 25,000 mayors across the country, back in October 2010. In the intervening time, the team has met

with more than 2,000 of them, and the vast majority of those met have been reading the materials put out by Cheminade.

As one member of the campaign team put it in a letter to supporters the day Cheminade filed his signatures:

“Now, 43 years after the death of Charles de Gaulle, a true leader can start a true dialogue with the soul of the country. Whereas politicians after de Gaulle’s presidencies were without character and abandoned the long legacy of a certain idea of France and humanity embodied by de Gaulle himself, Charles de Gaulle’s action continues to live now in the Jacques Cheminade’s candidacy. He, while others quit, ‘picked up the hilt of the broken sword.’

“And in the eyes of mayors whom we met with again over the last weeks to fill out the official forms of their signature, we, the young adults we are, our responsibility. Mayors make common cause with us, inspired by a better future, our responsibility, as de Gaulle did in 1958 by putting the new Constitution on the table.”

With that sense of historic mission, Cheminade and his campaign are determined to press through this crucial Presidential campaign, and make a revolution in thinking—and perhaps much more.

Jacques Cheminade

‘We Must Swear an Oath to the Future’

The leader of the French LaRouche movement and a candidate for President of France, gave this video address to the Schiller Institute Conference in Berlin, Feb. 25-26, 2012.

To all of you who are gathered there today, I’m going to say something to begin with, which might surprise you. I am not among you physically, but I am much more with you, than if I were with you physically, because we are engaged in the same fight. And the fight I am waging here, and that I cannot leave even for a few hours, is the same as yours. That is what brings us together.

Being a candidate in the Presidential election in France today is a paradox which is both exciting and, at

the same time, calls forth in one something which is the most profound, the most human and sometimes the most difficult to express, and to convey to others.

Here, behind me, you have the theme of our campaign: “A world without the City or Wall Street, great infrastructure works for tomorrow.” It is a theme of the future, an assertion that the future defines the present. And in our campaign, we are coming across much that is in the history of our country that defines the future.

We find the translation of the Bible into French by Lefèvre d’Etaples, who was very close to Nicholas of Cusa. We find the Judaism of Rachi of Troyes. We find the Islam that is coming to us today; and we find the humanism that runs through our entire history. Gerbert d’Aurillac, for example, the Pope who became Sylvester II [946-1003], and went all the way to Spain to find science in the Spain of Islam, and who was born in Cantal, where many mayors gave me their signatures.

And we made a trip to the Familistère of Godin. Godin was a creator from the end of the 19th Century, who invented, among other things, a cast iron oven, which supplanted the cooking pot, and completely changed the concept of nourishment. He was a great industrialist, who created collective housing for all, equipped with the very latest achievements in terms of hygiene; a utopian, but he was not so utopian when he dealt with reality. He wanted to ensure that everyone would have a productive job. We are coming across all this history in this campaign.

Use the Future To Define the Present

But, at the same time, we also find the present. Socialists who have betrayed socialism, Gaullists who have betrayed Gaullism, Catholics who have betrayed Christianity, and human beings who have given up on what is human inside themselves. That, at a time in our history when the international financial system is disintegrating, when we are headed for social destruction, and an austerity and “rigor” policy like that which Brüning in 1930-32 in Germany, and Laval in France, when he was president of the Council in 1935, carried out.

At the same time, it’s a policy which is not forward-looking, which does not see the future, which refuses to see it: the fall of the house of Europe.

Then we have the policy that is leading us to war, where we are headed inescapably, the war of all against

all, perhaps tomorrow, perhaps further down the road, but inescapably so, because all the conditions for such a war have been created in a world controlled by the oligarchy—a world in contraction. The oligarchy is attempting to implement a policy which goes against the people, against the populations. That is what we are up against, at the same time as we rediscover what is best in our history, during this campaign.

What We Must Do

So, in these circumstances, I am glad to be among you, in thought, and to address you, because we absolutely must build together. It cannot be done in a single country; it has to be done in all the countries of the world.

We must build this platform toward the future which is, for us, for all of us, what we need to bring future generations to an age which is better than ours. That was the dream of those two great German poets—who were also French, or had a French side to them—Schiller and Heine. This is the dream of all those who have fought on the front lines, just as we are fighting today.

This means moving toward what Franklin D. Roosevelt dreamed of, and attempted to achieve at the end of his life, and which Truman betrayed. It is the Alliance for Progress sought by Kennedy, who was assassinated for trying to build it. It is the “universal republic” that Victor Hugo spoke of. It is the fatherland that defines itself by what it contributes to the common good of all of humanity. This orientation is completely opposite to that of the Europe of the euro, which is destroying itself right now, and destroying whatever Europe could contribute, as a continent, to the rest of the world.

This means that we can only make our history meaningful, by achieving the common aims of humanity. Among them, we have the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which Helga Zepp-LaRouche first developed, which will have to become a worldwide land-bridge. Those common aims of humanity, for each country that participates through national banks, must be oriented towards investment in the future, with a technological platform and a vision of the future shared by all.

The Arctic, the Antarctic, Africa—every region of the world should be opened up and led to take part in universal history, in the history of our future. That is not just an opinion, of course; it is much more—it is a necessity. This necessity is what we have to fight for, so



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In contrast to the tragedy that has overtaken Europe, as represented by “Merkozy,” Cheminade puts forward the concept advocated by himself and Helga Zepp-LaRouche: the common aims of mankind, as expressed in the notion of the extraterrestrial imperative.

that the world has a future, and so that we free ourselves from this straitjacket of war which is leading us to the threshold—and we will cross that threshold, if we don’t act in time—of thermonuclear war. Because man will always use the weapons he has, if he fails to define a better world above and beyond. That was described by Hobbes himself when he spoke of the Leviathan.

I Fight for the Future

Here again, that implies educating the creative capacities of all. It also implies having a conception of human labor, which is really human. Today, everyone is talking about work in France, but nobody knows what it is. They even say that prostitutes are “sex workers.” We have lost the sense of work which is not something repetitive. It is not some *thing*; it’s not an activity, or an occupation that you do; it’s not earning a living to make money. Work involves an effort for the future, it involves creating the basis for future generations to live better than we ourselves do.

Our great philosopher of the 20th Century, Simone Weil, said it very clearly. She said that all work has to have a certain poetical part to it. It is this poetical part that defines human work, in contrast to an animal’s work, which is the repetitive side. The poetical part allows us to imagine human beings for the future, who will be better than we are. The significance of a Presi-

dential campaign is to create the basis for such a future.

And then of course, there are the daily aspects of the campaign, and on the daily side, you are submerged in the world of media, submerged in a universe where every single person does not necessarily have bad intentions, but where the overall climate is destructive in respect to this human capacity, this capacity of human work. A Presidential campaign has to fight on a daily basis to revive this conception of human creation and human work.

In the campaign, what do we hear? “How much does it cost?” “How much does it cost?” “But how much does it cost?” Or on another subject: debt. “How will you pay the debt? The debt, the debt.”

Austerity is called for on the right, and “rigor” on the left. We hear all these voices coming from a finite world, from a world which is doomed to self-destruction, if we don’t save it.

Man as Explorer

What I have to fight in this campaign, is not so much the other candidates. I have to fight for what the other candidates are *not* fighting for. That means that in this campaign, we have to try to change, by all possible means, the way of thinking of a country, of our country: by immersing it in the creative moments of its history, so that it sees what it can give, what it can offer to the

future. Of course, France alone can do very little. She can only act as a catalyst or an instigator, drawing on her history, knowing that she was only great when she was universal.

Today, we have a problem before us, a French-German problem, to be solved. France and Germany can simply not be “Merkozy”: Can you imagine something so ridiculous in the midst of a tragedy, like in a Shakespeare drama?

Therefore, Helga Zepp-LaRouche and myself, in these circumstances, have to represent what France and Germany truly are. And I can think of an example: With respect to our extraterrestrial imperative, to the imperative to explore—man must become an explorer; with respect to that, I think of Krafft Ehrlicke, who was a friend of Helga Zepp-LaRouche. This German scientist thought, just like many others, that the Earth is the cradle of humanity, but man is not made to remain in his cradle.

Krafft Ehrlicke, who spoke of this extraterrestrial imperative, in my mind, joins Jean Robieux in France, who was the inventor, in France and in the world, of thermonuclear fusion by laser, by inertial confinement. This is the means of transportation of the future, at least toward Mars, which will allow us to get to Mars from the Moon in about one week.

This is what must be defined by a French-German alliance, moved by the sense of the future that we all need to have, those who are gathered in this room physically, and those who are not, like myself. This is the sense we have to share. Communication of this is put across through a presence that cannot be touched, or seen; it is done through ideas.

De Gaulle used to say that France is a certain idea, Germany is a certain idea, and this association of ideas must be the basis for the common aims of humanity.

That is the proper sense of our combat. I think back, at this point in history, to what was said by someone who was more French than if he had been born French. He was Romain Gary, an author who, when thinking of his experience with the Free French, thinking of the Resistance fighters, the partisan snipers and the French Forces of the Interior (FFI), thinking of those in the Normandy-Niemen squadron, said, thinking about it profoundly: No one is dead, no one is dead any more.

If We Fail Our Mission

I am of the Gagarin generation; I was 20 at the time, and I can tell you that over the course of this

campaign, I have felt very profoundly what Romain Gary meant. If we sound the depths of ourselves, no one is dead, because all our friends of the past come forth to us.

At the same time, the condition of no one being dead, is that we receive every person with a beautiful face, and this beautiful face is the face of the future. The face of the future is what must determine our fight.

But if we fail to fulfill our mission, this future may very well never exist. We have to make the commitment, from deep within ourselves, to be human beings, and not dinosaurs who are vulnerable to the destruction that a species brings upon itself, or to the extinction produced by outside events, and the inability to understand the universe. We must swear an oath to the future, with all our heart.

And I am sure there is no other choice, if we are to ensure a future for the human species.

This choice is one we have to make together. I am very much aware of that in my campaign, in France, in Europe, in the world, and I am committed to bringing this dimension into it.

I think of all those who, in the Basement as it's called, in the new catacombs, located in the “belly of the beast,” are thinking about, reflecting on, working towards a new Renaissance.¹ Such a new Renaissance must be the goal of every campaign that we wage, armed with a pedagogy which, like every good pedagogy, provokes a shock within people, and serious thought and change.

At a time when everybody is talking about “change,” “change,” “change,” true change involves realizing that we have to transform ourselves, to change our society, but in depth, on the basis of principles.

This is the sense of mission which brings us together today. But we must prove it by acting, by working, by doing something for the future. We have to prove our ability to be real French republicans, and Europeans, just as those people did who felt the fresh wind coming from the America of the Founding Fathers, and who were inspired to leave, in order to create something better on the other side of the Atlantic.

We have to think of all that, carry it inside ourselves, to give it to future generations. That is the challenge before us.

1. A reference to the LaRouchePAC Basement Team of scientific researchers.