

# France and Germany suffer lack of clear leadership in crisis

by Uwe Friesecke

*On Aug. 7, German leader of the Schiller Institute Uwe Friesecke briefed EIR's editors on the strategic perils in Europe. Just two weeks before the Soviet coup d'état began, Friesecke, a collaborator of the imprisoned American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, warned that Russia itself was the most fragile element in an increasingly unstable situation in the Balkans, the former satellite states, and the U.S.S.R. Excerpts from the first part of his presentation appeared in the last issue. Below are his comments, considerably abridged, on the implications for France and Germany:*

What becomes awfully clear, is the failure and the inability of the German government, the French government, and the Italian government (and not just the governments, but the political elites throughout Europe), to seize this historical moment and steer the ship of politics in Europe into a direction of safer waters.

## The 'new' France

Let's start with France. France is 100% committed to a course of action that *Time* magazine calls, and which most of the French elites have accepted, the New France. Last month, *Time* magazine had a special French edition out, which was announced in the national news broadcast. The issue was sold out at the newsstands in Paris within hours. This was shortly before the July 14 parades of President Mitterrand in Paris. The issue was, that the Old France—meaning Gaullism, Colbert, and that tradition—is “bad,” and that the New France is the great historical accomplishment of Mitterrand. The New France, open to deregulation, open to adopting the culture of Hollywood, is being applauded.

The public debate is turning in amazing ways on issues which you wouldn't expect, especially the foreigners issue. How can you explain, that a Socialist prime minister proposes stiffer measures to get rid of foreigners than [xenophobic National Front leader] Le Pen himself, and is being applauded for that, by the general public? What you have today in France, is violent clashes in different cities, not necessarily every day, but repeatedly, between North Africans in particular and French police or other French groups. The Socialist government more or less proposes to forcefully deport tens of thousands, if not millions, of foreigners. That is not a sign of political wisdom, or political stability.

Yes, [Foreign Minister] Chévènement resigned and re-

volted; yes, General Gallois attacked the Iraq war in an excellent way, and there were various articles in *Figaro* in the last two or three weeks. Those individual voices are there; but in France, you no longer have a social-political force which would resemble in the slightest what we know and have

## Schiller Institute team visits Romania

The first press conference in Romania of the Schiller Institute, which is catalyzing resistance to the radical free market “shock therapy” of the so-called Harvard mafia and the International Monetary Fund all over eastern Europe, was held July 29 in Bucharest and was a great success. The press conference was organized by the opposition newspaper *Evenimentul*. It took place in their office and was moderated by editor in chief Paul Tutungiu, Jr.

A total of 11 journalists attended, including reporters from *Evenimentul*, both domestic and foreign programs of the national radio, and some Romanian dailies. The turnout was remarkable considering that 15 minutes earlier a rainstorm started over Bucharest and that President Roman Iliescu at the same time gave a press conference, aired live on Romanian television.

The Schiller Institute was represented by two spokesmen from Sweden, Astrid Sandmark and Ulf Sandmark, who laid out Lyndon LaRouche's concept of a “Productive Triangle” of infrastructural development in central Europe, with its vertices at Vienna, Berlin, and Paris. The Triangle would act as the locomotive for an industrial boom throughout Europe and a recovery of the world economy. This program has been presented by the Schiller Institute at conferences in Kiev (Ukraine), Berlin, Gdansk (Poland), Bratislava and Prague in Czechoslovakia, and Budapest (Hungary), and is circulating throughout central and eastern Europe in numerous languages.

Ulf Sandmark described the case of Lyndon LaRouche's imprisonment for political reasons in the United States. He detailed how LaRouche in Berlin in

admired as the Gaullism which led to the friendship with Adenauer in Germany. Therefore, Mitterrand had a free hand to go over into the camp of the Anglo-Americans, whether it be because he thinks that's the winning side, or out of deep ideological convictions.

This comes at a time when France is hit by a deep economic crisis. Unemployment is rising; the competitiveness of the French car industry, the French computer industry, and other areas, has gone into a significant phase of decline. This adds to the spirit of everybody for himself, as a mentality in France.

There is a clear-cut attempt in this climate to limit or eliminate us as a political force, and [French Schiller Institute president] Jacques Cheminade is the voice of France, trying to bring France back, trying to reactivate the best traditions

of what you can rightly call the Old France, into a new orientation in Europe.

### The German picture

Now, Germany: You have a completely contradictory picture. Transportation Minister Krause is trying to build his railroads and his Autobahn. He's trying to improve the canal system. They have allocated the money for local and regional governments in east Germany to start building houses and sewage systems.

But the biggest catastrophe is that the political side of the process is no longer in the hands of those who are at least preliminarily trying to do the right thing in economics. The political-cultural side of the process is completely open for manipulation and destabilization, at a moment where the

October 1988 had projected the reunification of Germany—at that time practically an unheard-of potential—and had insisted on the need for the West to offer the Soviets a way out of their economic crisis. With questions and answers the press conference developed into a seminar on the world political situation.

Very strong sentiments were expressed against the International Monetary Fund. One question was: Can the IMF be reformed or must it be replaced? The Romanian government has just signed an agreement with the IMF, but the journalists explained that this was done only because there was no apparent alternative.

While no one contested the Schiller Institute's view that the Persian Gulf war was an Anglo-American colonialist adventure, there were some objections to the "Triangle." One senior journalist, apparently oriented to the government (which is still communist), pointed to the proposed network for railway lines in the Triangle program and commented that it was "a typical German imperialist design." He had not noticed that Paris was one corner of the triangle. Another said that "we are allergic to geometric figures" since all the proposals since before World War II—from Germany to the communistic integration of eastern Europe—had geometric forms. Finally he said that he understood this Triangle had another basis.

The response at the press conference was enthusiastic. As one editor of a cultural journal put it: "Last year we were too optimistic, this year we are too pessimistic. Your visit here was encouraging!"

Both radio programs interviewed with the Schiller Institute representatives. In the national radio news program the interview was aired twice that evening. The other interview was to be aired to Ibero-America in two parts.

All the journals covered the press conference favorably. *Evenimentul* ran a front-page story about "The Alter-

native to the New World Order: A Magic Triangle to Relaunch Europe." This opposition weekly had devoted two pages to the Schiller Institute. Like most Romanian papers it is still typeset with hot lead, and with its eight pages is quite a large newspaper. The summary headlines introducing the Schiller Institute read: "Neither Adam Smith, Nor Karl Marx. Bush Is More Bankrupt Than Gorbachov. The LaRouche Case: Political Prisoners Exist in the U.S.?"

A drive through the countryside gave the impression of a good harvest this year. The private farmers have used every space available, and outside many houses there was construction material piled up. The houses in the villages had been privately owned all along. Some villages in the mountains had also controlled the fields all through the communist period. Now it was reported that many young relatives of the farmers had moved back from the cities and started farming again. Yet, some of the big fields appeared to be in very bad condition, and the catastrophic rains could also have damaged the harvest.

Romanians have very low confidence in anything Romanian. The prevailing attitude is that no Romanian products are worth anything and the Romanians cannot work. Everything that has the virus of Ceausescu, the late dictator, is thrown on the garbage dump: from cooperatives, to plans, big factories, amateur theater, and so on. This psychological climate provides perfect conditions for imposing the International Monetary Fund reforms, monetary devaluation, export orientation, privatization, and sell-off. All attention is fixed on solving Romania's practical problems. Cultural life has collapsed since the 1989 coup, and the connection to the international momentum of the freedom process in the east seems to be lost. Thus, the intervention of the Schiller Institute comes at a critical juncture.