tive nuclear "first strike," the report's proposals to suppress veto rights and abolish majority vote within NATO's decision-making process might revive French opposition. Already, initial reports indicate that the upcoming Bucharest NATO conference, under French and German pressure, refused to put the question of Ukraine and Georgia becoming new members on the agenda. NATO's provocative attitude is seen as irritating the Russian military, already furious about NATO's role in Kosovo—an irritation that could militate against the new Russian President-elect Dimitri Medvedev's allegedly greater openness to the West.

While the Lisbon Treaty allows the EU to become a military power, NATO proposes to become a political one, since military action is deemed "insufficient." The conjunction of both processes in a time of financial breakdown means a return to imperial dictatorship. LaRouche's co-thinkers in France, under the leadership of Jacques Cheminade, are calling the shots on this "hidden" agenda for a world government, and are committed to awake the French tradition in defense of the nation-state and the legacy of the Peace of Westphalia.

France Must Oppose Europe NATO-ization

by Jacques Cheminade

Jacques Cheminade is the head of the LaRouche-affiliated Solidarité et Progrès Party in France, and a former Presidential candidate. His statement was issued on March 13.

What is presented to us today under the name of "Europe" is in reality a new financial Sparta. Its two pillars are: a financial empire guided by a central bank not subjected to the people, and a military structure integrated into an Atlantic alliance extended throughout the planet.

If you don't realize what is coming down on us, it is for the simple reason that it was intended to be so. In July 2007, Giuliano Amato, the vice-president of the European Convention that elaborated the Simplified European Treaty (SET, now named the Lisbon Treaty), declared in London that, "They decided that the document should be unreadable—if it is unreadable, it is not constitutional; that was the sort of perception" (BBC News, July 23, 2007).

Besides these declarations of the man whom the London *Financial Times* called "the most anglophile Italian politician," one must take into account the words of Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who told the German weekly *Der Spiegel* in 1999 (No. 52): "We decide on something, and then we put it out and wait a while to see if anything happens. And then, if there isn't any big outcry or revolt, because most people don't understand what's been decided, we keep on going, step by step, until there's no turning back."

With that same method, French President Nicolas Sarkozy forced parliament to ratify a treaty that it had to adopt or drop, depriving our parliamentarians of their right of amendment or initiative. Why such a hurry? In the context of the current financial disintegration, characterized by the crises in subprime mortgages, monolines, credit derivatives, investment funds (KKR, Blackstone, Carlyle, etc.), the financial oligarchy cannot wait.

Robert Cooper, formerly one of Tony Blair's foreign policy gurus, who now is running directorate E of the Council of the European Union, in charge of economic-military affairs, openly fronts for the Lisbon Treaty. Cooper, like Giuliano Amato, is a member of the Ditchley Foundation, which is out to destroy the Europe of the Fatherlands of Charles de Gaulle, and the spirit of the Peace of Westphalia, which had guaranteed peace among nation-states.

A New Kind of Imperialism

All this for the triumph of what Cooper calls "a new kind of [liberal] imperialism, one acceptable to a world of human rights and cosmopolitan values," but in reality, based on a principle of "double standards," applying "the law of cooperative security" among members, while applying "the law of the jungle" to the rest.

Amato, for his part, claims that the Middle Ages are the model, abandoning sovereignty to "faceless entities: NATO, the United Nations, and finally the EU"—which means "a future of princes without sovereignty."

Their plan is not to develop the world, but to control it. The return of France into the integrated command structure of NATO, as proposed by the Sarkozy government, has to be seen as a key element in this "new order." The Lisbon Treaty stipulates that the EU's clause of mutual military assistance shall be compatible with "those commitments agreed on inside NATO which remain for its member states the foundation of their collective defense and the body of their application."

So why blabber? French Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner, as reported by *Le Monde* on March 11, leaves no doubt on the issue: "There is a complementarity among both structures.... European defense and Atlantic anchorage are two aspects of one single defense and security policy."

What kind of NATO are we talking about? The "new NATO," which is to be shaped by the issues on the table for the upcoming April Bucharest summit: the "first strike" preventive use of nuclear weapons, the end of decision-making by majority vote, the implied end of the right to veto, and the use of force without UN authorization "if a great number of lives are endangered."

In short, this implies that France must surrender to an empire using financial and military blackmail. The time is ripe for us to present to France, Europe, and to the world, an alternative project of an alliance for progress among sovereign republics.