

LaRouche Associate Cheminade Declares for French Presidency

Paris, June 18—*On June 18, 1940, Charles de Gaulle launched his historic “Appeal to the French people” from London, calling upon all patriots to resist the occupation of France by the Nazis, as well as the fully complicit Vichy regime of Marshal Pétain. Against all odds, de Gaulle, at first alone and isolated, went on to organize and lead the Free French forces, admittedly small, but ultimately successful.*

Today, 70 years later, Jacques Cheminade, president of Solidarité et Progrès in France, chose the same day in June to announce his candidacy for the Presidential elections of 2012, to rally resistance to the new financial fascism which threatens worldwide. Although politicians of all stripes have attempted to coopt the 70th anniversary of de Gaulle’s famous call, Cheminade is the only one to incarnate the true spirit of resistance.

Cheminade has been organizing in France in favor of Lyndon LaRouche’s economic and political perspective for more than 30 years, and has become a prominent institutional figure on the political scene there. His Presidential candidacy in 1995, during which he overcame daunting political hurdles to get on the ballot, shook the political rafters, and established him as a rallying point for those French patriots who sought to restore the commitment to economic and scientific progress, and to national sovereignty, which General de Gaulle represented. Although subjected to intensive political smears and assault, Cheminade has now re-

emerged stronger than ever, and recruited the core of a youth movement which is rapidly on the ascent.

EIR conducted the following interview with Cheminade, in writing, over the last week.

Revive the Spirit of the Free French

EIR: We understand you declared your candidacy for the Presidency of France at your party congress on June 13. Please tell us why you did this now, and what effect you intend to cause?

Cheminade: I have declared my candidacy in an unofficial way at our party’s Congress on June 13, and now I declare it officially on this June 18, 2010, the 70th anniversary of de Gaulle’s message to France. In a country which is now plagued by the Pétainist disease, a hypocritical submission to anti-patriotic forces, and submerged by unprecedented scandals, my intent is to revive the spirit of the Free French. It means that a few men and women, in the middle of a tempest, surge to provide leadership and hope. When misfortune is on the prowl, in the most decisive moments of history, the salvation of the nation-state becomes the matter of a few.

In this tragic moment, not only President Sarkozy is promoting a horrendous austerity policy, but together with Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, he has agreed to submit the European budgets to a preliminary control by the European institutions, organized by the non-elected members of the European Commission, to



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Jacques Cheminade, who leads the LaRouche co-thinker party in France, Solidarité et Progrès, has declared for the French Presidency, in the tradition of Gen. Charles de Gaulle's battle, in the 1940s, to liberate France from the Vichy treason.

impose the stability pact on all. This is an absolute violation of all the rules of national sovereignty, against the French Parliament, and the European Parliament, all the more because the states which do not carry out the austerity conditions, can be sentenced to lose their voting rights in the functioning of the European Union.

Although the specific arrangements have not yet been decided, the intention is clear: how to make the people pay for the bailout of the banks and insurance companies. This is nothing but the policies of French Prime Minister Laval and German Chancellor Brüning during the early '30s of the 20th Century, policies that then led to the rise to power of Adolf Hitler, promoted by the banks and insurance companies that feared at the time a popular revolt against them, as their successors fear today's mass strike ferment.

It is clear that the policies of Sarkozy and his like, which mean submission to the rules of the game of the British Empire, cannot succeed, but only lead to chaos, a new "Twilight of the Gods."

Under such circumstances, despite my lack of material means, I represent the strength of ideas. We are

the only ones in France who call, at the same time, for a Glass-Steagall initiative, implying the organized bankruptcy of all the gambling money; fixed exchange rates among nations to avoid speculation against the currencies; long-term, low-interest rates; great infrastructure projects, from the Atlantic to the Sea of China; and, to achieve such a goal, the abolition of the euro, and the replacement of the monetarist European Central Bank system by a public credit system.

I have just asked publicly, at a National High Studies Institute of National Defense, before an audience of about 3,000 people, if today's political figures who do not promote such policies have the right to call themselves "Gaullists" or heirs of General de Gaulle. Régis Debray, the well-known French intellectual who is now posturing as a repentant Gaullist, had to answer: "Of course not.

But this is not a political forum, and I can't go ahead with such a discussion." He nonetheless stressed the famous 1943 de Gaulle Cambridge speech, where "his philosophy comes close to what you have just stressed."

What Debray acknowledged is what, at this point, most French people think: Sarkozy has betrayed and sold his soul (if he had one) to the European oligarchy and, unfortunately, his Socialist opponents are no alternative. For example, the French Socialists speak about a Glass-Steagall bill, but their connection to the United States is—"Bailout" Barney Frank, through the Secretariat of the European Socialist party!

Sarkozy, Like Obama, Hit by Scandal

At this precise moment, equivalent to what is happening with Barack Obama in the United States, the Sarkozy government is plagued by scandals. The Labor Minister Éric Woerth, formerly Budget Minister and Treasurer of Sarkozy's UMP party, is involved in a major embezzlement scandal through his wife, Florence, coming from the Rothschild circles and a manager of Liliane Bettencourt's fortune. Woerth is at the same time, imposing an unprecedented level of auster-

ity on the French population, preparing a law against the pensioners, and organizing favors to the big money. He was elected in the Oise department with the votes of Le Pen's National Front, and has participated, on behalf of Sarkozy, in the arrangement of Le Pen's tax problems, while at the same time pretending to be "Mr. Clean."

As for Sarkozy, he is directly caught in another scandal, the financing of the Édouard Balladur Presidential campaign of 1995, when he was his Budget Minister and spokesman. An amount of 10 million francs dirty money, in cash, landed then in the campaign accounts of Balladur, which is prohibited by the French electoral laws. Nonetheless, the Constitutional Council under Roland Dumas approved Balladur's accounts, because if it had rejected them, it would have had to do the same with Jacques Chirac, the then-elected President, who had cheated on his own campaign account!

At the same Constitutional Council session, my own accounts were rejected, to try to shut me up, with, as a consequence, the obligation to personally reimburse the state for the official funding advance, and—given my refusal—the raising by the state of a mortgage against my small apartment!

The Balladur scandal is now blowing up, 15 years later, because the money is supposed to have come from a kickback given to his campaign by the Pakistani intelligence services as a favor for a much larger commission provided to them by the Balladur gang for the sale of three French Agosta submarines. Now, when Chirac was elected, he stopped the remaining flow of so-called commissions to the Pakistani services; and it is now highly suspected that, as revenge, they killed 11 Frenchmen from the Navy services in Pakistan, in a so-called blind terrorist bombing!

So the fights within the French political establishment have probably been the source of a disgusting bloody affair; and, despite all efforts, damage control appears impossible for them. All the more, because the lawyer for the French victims in Pakistan, Olivier Morice, is also the lawyer of the Boulin case, where the ghost of a French Gaullist minister who supposedly committed suicide in 1979, is reappearing on the French political scene as the obvious victim of a crime.

And I am personally in the middle of this, because I was the scapegoat! You understand now, in the core of

the international tempest, how, for all kind of reasons, my candidacy becomes relevant.

Under such circumstances, and because the most important of all is that I am the only one in France to have the right American connections with LaRouche's patriotic forces, Helga Zepp-LaRouche and I have decided to share her next Berlin European webcast on June 30, to show to the international and national forces involved in the fight against the British Empire that they have a rising echo in Europe. The mass strike ferment is not yet as developed in Europe, as it is in the United States, but the hollow voices here are more and more raising their pitch.

Campaign Platform

EIR: Please tell us the key points of your campaign platform.

Cheminade: The key points are the above-mentioned ones: Glass-Steagall; organized bankruptcy of all gambling debts; long-term, low-interest rates; great infrastructure investments to equip both man and nature; a New Bretton Woods based on fixed-exchange parities; a return to the Europe of the projects and the Fatherlands against the monetarist Europe of the Maastricht process; abolition of all anti-social measures of the preceding governments; the change of the education system from the present one based on a social castes, to one based on the discovery of the creative powers of the human mind.

A revolutionary measure in France should be to teach Classical choral music to young children at the same time that they learn how to read and write.

The purpose of my campaign, in all areas, is to regain our country against the destructive mixture of court manners, mathematical formulas, and video gambling.

A major reason why our party, Solidarité et Progrès, is calling for the resignation of President Sarkozy is that, in the middle of this financial disintegration, he has personally compelled the Parliament to vote for a law allowing gambling on the Internet, which was until now forbidden in France. How could such a President, who is corrupting our population with such games, to the benefit of his financial friends, ever be qualified to decide what is immediately needed—the bankrupting of all gambling debts nationally and internationally? He has not only no authority to do it, but he is opposed to the very idea of displeasing his corrupt friends. Be-

cause of this fact, he is doomed and should leave right now, carried away with the tide along with Barack Obama!

My fight is that of truthfulness against gangsterism.

EIR: Should you be elected, what change would this create in France's role internationally?

Cheminade: Everything would change, not by the victory of some abstract will, but by the change of intention and inspiration in the whole country. France has to be, in Europe, one of the major countries responding to the change in the United States, not as a mere imitation, but as a brotherly endeavor. In a new environment close, to that of the French Revolution, we need to be the leadership that this time succeeds, because we know what to do against flaws and weaknesses; and above all, we despise the oligarchical principle.

The U.S. Mass Strike

EIR: As you know, we in the United States are in the midst of huge social upheaval, which Lyndon LaRouche has characterized as a mass strike, and we expect this process to grow, as the financial-economic breakdown process accelerates. Do you have the same phenomenon in France? Are the institutions of government, and other social areas, as discredited there, as they are here?

Cheminade: We distributed a million copies of a leaflet titled: "To the Coming Anger" in all France, with about 500 members or friends involved in the operation. The institutions of the government and other types of normally respected associations are absolutely discredited. I have been positively shocked to see, in my tours from the north to the south, and from the east to the west of the country, how the mayors and elected officials are furious against their own parties, and how more and more people are willing to take responsibility, thinking that to be "against" is not enough.

The anger is indeed taking a more and more active form, and many mayors have written letters asking me to become the spearhead. What was done to me by the official institutions in the past is no more considered by many as a problem, but as an asset. "If corrupt people did that to you, it is for me a good reason to trust you." This is more and more what we are getting from our contacts, new or old. At our General Assembly of the

past weekend, the spirit was very different from that of the past years. The emotional understanding was there, breaking through the rules of the pyramidal, oligarchical game.

So the mass strike is coming faster and faster onto the stage, and it will take a very strong form between now and this Fall, both because of the coming hit of the June-July world crisis and the looting of pensions by the government "reform." The fact that the dubious Éric Woerth is in charge of this so-called reform fosters the anger.

In the polls, Sarkozy has an approval rate of less than 35%; and the fear of the consequences of the crisis is now outdoing the fear of the prevailing gangs in French politics, even in the case of some journalists who are trying to more or less politely cover their respective asses.

Impeach Sarkozy?

EIR: I understand that the national elections are scheduled for 2012, but that some recent developments have pointed to the possibility that they might be forced up to an earlier time, perhaps even because the current President, Sarkozy, might come under the threat of impeachment. Is this the case?

Cheminade: Well, it is more difficult to impeach a French President than an American one, but Sarkozy has done so much and with such incompetence that the idea is making its way in the minds of people. They would tend to say: "But it is impossible..." Then think for a moment and add, "But what a good idea. Let's see how we can proceed."

There is an Article 68 in the French Constitution that says that a French President can be impeached "if he betrays his duties in a way obviously incompatible with the tasks pertaining to the pursuit of his mandate." This requires a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, with only the votes favorable to the impeachment being taken into account. Taking this into account, we are calling for an elegant resignation, because Sarkozy has proven to be an obstacle to a policy re-establishing the principle of the nation-state and the common goals of humanity.

Unlike me, he has all the wrong connections in the City of London and the United States, which is at this very moment proven by the way he is celebrating de Gaulle's June 18, 1940 in London, as an ungifted amateur in historical gangsterism.

Official Declaration Of Candidacy

Jacques Cheminade, the chairman of the French Solidarité et Progrès party, and longtime associate of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, has announced his candidacy for President in the 2012 elections. Here is his statement.

PARIS, June 18—The “European Cathedral” that Charles de Gaulle, his predecessors, and his allies dreamed of building, has become, through the unconscionable compromises of his successors, a disreputable house where banks are bailed out and the people’s throats are slit.

I find no one among my country’s official circles who has risen to the challenge. No one who has offered a vision corresponding to our founding principles and documents, drawn up in the aftermath of the victory of free peoples over regimes that were intent on enslaving and degrading human beings: the Preamble of our Constitution and the program of the National Council of Resistance. No one who is leading a ruthless battle against the new feudalism; no one who unstintingly serves the imperative of social justice set out in the Declaration of Philadelphia of May 10, 1944, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of Dec. 10, 1948. That is because no one dares to stand up to the predatory order of the City of London and Wall Street, by calling by its name, this British Empire that intends to destroy the resistance of nation-states.

The two major candidates for the Presidency currently promoted by a clique of media cartels, the former surrounded by a “firm,” the latter by a “gang,”¹ both serve, each in his own way, the self-same interests of a financial oligarchy that is driving the world to disaster, and promoting global austerity which, if not stopped, will lead to a war of all against all. Their policy is that of Chancellor Brüning and President Laval during the

1930s, and we know where that led.

Faced with this tragic failure, faced with the illusion of returning to the past and to the self-destructive blindness of extremisms, I have decided to run for President in 2012 so as to contribute, now, to the needed political wake-up call.

Today, as it was 70 years ago, France is not alone. A movement is growing in the United States, within the population, and among certain policy-makers—despite the sickening cowardice of the Congress and of President Obama—to demand a public productive credit system, to abolish the law of short-term financial gain, and to restore the priority of productive labor and human creativity. This movement is emerging as a coalition in favor of separating chartered commercial banks from investment banks, i.e., the Glass-Steagall principle adopted under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933, to stop destructive forms of financial speculation. This issue is absolutely crucial, and my dear friends across the Atlantic are the spearhead of the motion.

In response to the breakdown of the financial system of Wall Street and the City of London, a mobilization is now building internationally to fend off political and social decomposition.

In this situation, my role, as I see it, is that of a trail-blazer, striving to give a new sense to the history of our nation by contributing to this great promise emerging worldwide, and to do so in cooperation with all who are guided by the same intention.

The current policy of France is treasonous, and a crime with respect to our own history. It can only lead to chaos.

I therefore call upon all patriots, above party lines and allegiances, to join me in this effort to awaken the great issues of burning inspiration in our country, and to unite them with those of others.

For there is a life after the euro and the IMF, provided we rebuild Europe, with such foundations as great projects for development from the Atlantic to the coasts of China, with such pillars as the financial capacities of a New Bretton Woods, and with the rooftop being the political and economic cooperation indispensable for achieving such great infrastructure programs.

This is the Europe that the world needs, whereas, the Europe peddled under that name today, is just as dead as the monetary system that begat it.

In order to survive, our society must rediscover political virtue and courage. The opportunity is here and now, amidst the tempest.

1. The “firm” and the “gang” are the self-proclaimed names of the political teams supporting the candidacies of, respectively, incumbent President Nicolas Sarkozy, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.