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28 November 1979

West Europe Report

(FOUO 66/79)

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WEST EUROPE REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

FRANCE

PROFILES OF POTENTIAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, LABOR LEADERS

Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 1 Oct 79 pp 60-67; 8 Oct 79 pp 59-65

[Article by Franz-Olivier Giesbert, with cooperation of: Olivier Binst, Alain Chouffan, Gerald Doumith, Guy Dumur, Cecile Elie, Jean-Paul Enthoven, Jean-Francois Josselin, Patrice Lestrohan, Mathieu Lindon and Lucien Rioux]

[Excerpts] Communist Party: Francis Wurtz

He is the invisible man except to some leaders of the Communist Party who have to deal with his somewhat newly acquired authority. If almost all of them are betting on him, it is because by dint of his perspicacity, he has been able to find a place alongside Georges Marchais. It is said that there is something of Kanapa in this young man. Highly introverted and resembling an Alsatian curate, this statesman -- only a short time ago, he was still a member of the committee from the Lower Rhine Federation -- seems to have jumped right out of a novel by Erckmann-Chatrian.



Francis Wurtz

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Will he therefore go down in the overall history of the Communist Party, as so many other former private secretaries have done? For the time being, he confines himself to handling Georges Marchais' mail, drafting his speeches, distributing his slogans or even overseeing the typesetting of the secretary general's major speeches for L'HUMANITE. His applied zeal is starting to pay off. He emerged from the shadows, coming out of the European elections as a member of the Strasbourg Parliament. But he will probably go even higher, occupying each successive post as a stepping stone to the next. The last to have done so, after Marcel Servin or Georges Cogniot, is Charles Fiterman, currently the No 2 man in the party.

Politics: Gisele Moreau



Gisele Moreau

No woman since Mrs Thorez (Jeannette Vermersch) has succeeded in making a veritable breakthrough in the party. But Gisele Moreau, deputy from Paris, has everything in her favor. If Georges Marchais brought her up to the Political Bureau (BP) at the last congress, it was because he was aware of her scrupulous, almost anxious, conscience of a former (model) bank employee. He was also able to gauge her pragmatism only recently: Long a close ally of the liberal wing of the party, the latest BP recruit did not hesitate, at the beginning of the year, to join with the "orthodox" members in participating in the regaining of control over and subsequent normalization of the Paris federation.

With Gisele Moreau, one escapes the party drivel that is the trademark of the female apparatchiks. One listens to her when she grows excited talking about her heroine, Jeanne d'Arc, or about evictions from hovels. A rare phenomenon in the political class, her voice sounds sincere, but it is naturally a controlled sincerity. The deputy from Paris has been a communist for a long time, since she was a small child, to be exact. When the

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family sat down to eat, her father, a communist sympathizer, and her mother, of the "socialist" stripe, often had heated discussions and Gisele was always on her father's side. "I have been working in the party for 20 years," she writes, "and I have not been disappointed. It is amazing."

Socialist Party: Daniel Percheron

His name may be unknown to you but he is one of the three or four most powerful men in the Socialist Party. Why? Because he heads the Pas-de-Calais Federation, one of the most important ones in France and certainly the most solid of all. With his deceiving resemblance to Candide, Daniel Percheron has been able to transform the old Mollet fief into what the Place du Colonel-Fabien experts call "the only Socialist Party machine." His federation has 11 permanent representatives, a printing press and a training center and it sends nine deputies to the National Assembly. "When one cohabits with the Communist Party, one has to be a machine man," he says. "Otherwise, one is very quickly naked in the street."



Daniel Percheron

No one has beaten him yet: not Guy Mollet, long a boss in the region, whom he overturned in 1975 to the surprise of everyone, or the old former SFIO [French Section of the Workers International (French Socialist Party)] cronies that he gobbled up one after the other. Today, Daniel Percheron is the only man of his generation not to owe anything to anyone. Ecumenical by nature and thirsty for knowledge, he wisely follows the row of Pierre Mauroy and for the time being, confines himself to learning his trade as a deputy to

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the European Parliament. But there is scarcely any doubt that this history professor, a great soccer fan, will one day run under his own colors. Let the heirs apparent take heed!

Socialist Party: Veronique Neiertz

"Jean-Pierre, you do not have the floor.... Paul, why don't you be quiet!" When Francois Mitterrand lets her preside over the weekly session of the Executive Bureau or the Secretariat, Veronique Neiertz does not hesitate to put Jean-Pierre Chevenement or Paul Quilès, two party leaders, in their place, and bluntly. The new national secretary for women is feisty and has plenty of grit. Even if no one has heard of her, along with Françoise Gaspard, the mayor of Dreux, she is one of the women of tomorrow in the Socialist Party.



Veronique Neiertz

An organizer and mother of three, this daughter of middle class parents says that she tried to escape the role her family tried to impose on her. A former student of the HEC [School for Advanced Business Studies], she joined the Socialist Party in 1972 and became the party's record keeper. A staunch supporter of Mitterrand, she was quickly noticed by none other than Francois Mitterrand, who placed her in the top ranks of the party, the Secretariat, after the last congress.

Although the mysteries of socialism no longer hold any secrets for her, Veronique Neiertz intends to keep a certain distance with regard to party matters. "While my comrades listen to the news on the radio," she admits, "I prefer to turn to France-Musique." Those same comrades have noticed that this political novice has not yet played any wrong notes.

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Alain Richard: Socialist Party

"A chance you can't miss. This district is first rate." Four years ago, Alain Richard, the Mozart of election analysis, tried to convince all the big shots in the Socialist Party looking for a sure thing to run against Michel Poniatowski, then a minister. Unsuccessful, he decided to face Ponia himself. When he landed at Saint-Ouen-1^{er} Aumone on a day in December 1976, the Socialist Party section had but six members. Three months later in the municipal elections, he won the office of mayor. In the legislative elections a year later, he stole his deputy's seat from "the president's friend."



Alain Richard

His face and name may not tell you anything, but this unknown -- and caustic -- condottiere will nevertheless go farther than many of the recognized socialist candidates covered by the media.

The holder of a degree in political science and a graduate of the ENA [National School of Administration], Alain Richard has preserved the necktie, white handkerchief and meticulous conscience of the Council of State reporter which he was not long ago. Although a serious student, this scholarship holder, the son of a teacher, was not above involving himself in politics while at school. He is already a seasoned member, having joined the PSU [Unified Socialist Party] in 1962 at the age of 17.

An ecologist, a supporter of consumerism ("What is one to choose?") and self-management, he says unashamedly: "I believe in the future of true reformism. Well chosen, well conducted, a reform can affect the established order better than any excesses. As for politics as usual, away with it!" Is Alain Richard a Rocardian? He is outstanding enough to become a Richardian one day.

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Giscardism: Alain Madelin

How did this former "facho" of the 1960's become this social, liberal, vanguard member of Parliament? That is the Madelin mystery. After years of following the extreme rightist demonstrations in the Latin Quarter, this son of a skilled worker from Boulogne-Billancourt looks like minister material, now that he has put away his helmet and truncheon! Along with Jean-Piere Bloch, he is certainly the most gifted of the new generation of the Giscardian deputies.



Alain Madelin

Verbose -- he has apparently learned Valery Giscard d'Estaing's "Democratie Francaise" by heart -- but nevertheless relaxed, Alain Madelin's anti-communism is not as fanatical as it once was: "The ready-made Marxist is no more. Who can seriously believe in communism after what happened to Solzhenitsyn?" An antistatist, as he defines himself, this deputy from Redon willingly quotes the founders of the First International, constantly speaks about "solidarity" and whispers to you that he is following "very closely (but of course!) what is going on in the CFDT [French Democratic Confederation of Labor]. Then, with a broad gesture, is comes out for a reform of rights of succession and a tax on great fortunes, at the very time when Fortune has gone to meet him.

Gaullism: Philippe Seguin

His face may not be familiar but this somewhat timid colossus is nevertheless doing more to change France than half of the ministers (an easy task) and has acquired the respect (not so easy) of all the deputies, who are amazed by his ability to handle the most complex dossiers quickly and well.

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Philippe Seguin

Resembling a center forward on a soccer team -- he does play -- Philippe Seguin very clearly emerges from the parliamentary vulgum pecus. Jacques Chirac believes in him, but this young man who describes himself as being a "moderate leftist" is too shrewd to believe in anyone but himself or those great causes which the abolition of the death penalty, reform of the firing law or the fifth team posted are.

If he is a Gaullist, this pied-noir from Tunisia who once belonged to the UNEF [National Union of French Students] is one "because the General gave independence to Algeria." "I am a 1962 Gaullist," he is fond of saying. Politically iconoclastic, he is a rather conventional ENA graduate who, after serving in the Audit Office, served on different staffs -- from that of Georges Pompidou to that of Raymond Barre -- before being elected from a worker district in Vosges. Today, the RPR [Rally for the Republic] hopefuls keep a respectful distance from him. They tell each other that Mr Seguin will gobble them all up.

Politics: Alain Juppe

In "Les Caracteres" of La Bruyere, there is a man "with clean fingernails and his hair neatly combed" who, out of all the verses of Homer, remembers only one: "The people are happy when only one person governs them." That well-groomed man could well be Alain Juppe, one of the most gifted finance inspectors of his generation, who took a leave from the high administration in 1976 to serve (Forward, march!) "President Chirac."

Juppe already has all the nervous tics of his boss, the arm and chin movements. Always turning out the same little remarks about the decline of France or its necessary rehabilitation, he speaks cleanly and exudes boredom. Moreover, he has registered two election failures in his territory, Landes.

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Alain Juppe

Then why does everyone or nearly everyone on the right and the left continue to bet on this young man who already looks and sounds old? Quite simply, because this ENA technocrat is a distinguished humanist, an agrège in the classics. His hand can be seen in the best speeches of Jacques Chirac. In the theoretical desert of the RPR, he has risen rapidly. Now that the Juillet-Garaud team is gone, Alain Juppe has the field to himself.

Elysee Palace: Francois Polge de Combret

Every day at 8:00 in the morning, a tall, gangling young man wearing a khaki raincoat rides his scooter into the Elysee courtyard. Is it the mailman? The milkman? No, it is Francois Polge de Combret, assistant general secretary to the Office of President -- and on Saturdays, a soccer player on the Republican Guard team. Educated, an ecologist, an out-and-out moderate leftist, he is nothing like the standard Giscardian. The head of his class at the ENA, what did he do upon graduation? He did not go to work on the politicians' staffs; rather, he went around the world. In 1972, after his return, the president of the Audit Office -- where he was bored to death -- directed him to Valery Giscard d'Estaing, then minister of finance, who was looking for a technical adviser for wage affairs. It was a stroke of lightning.

Able to wade through dossiers, curious about everything, with a concern for communication rarely seen in high administration, Polge little by little became Giscard's confidence man. "I have served no other master," he says. Then: "I am devoted to him, body and soul. When he leaves, I do not know what I shall do. Everything will seem so lackluster." It is already clear that the destiny of Francois Polge de Combret will not be.

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Francois Polge de Combret

Research: Jean-Louis Gergorin

Jean-Louis Gergorin is briskly running after the future, Hugo's "ghost with the empty hands," with an affected, very Quai-d'Orsay style and a calculator. The future is his trade. A graduate of the ENA, to be sure, but he also has a degree from the Polytechnical School. "Of the two, I must say that it is Poly by far that gave me the most." He is also a researcher trained in the American methods of the Rand Corporation. He was noticed by Michel Jobert. An "evolving Gaullist," along with Philippe Petit he leads the small team that supplies Jean Francois-Poncet with recommendations and first-rate speeches. He is the "Father Joseph" of French diplomacy.



Jean-Louis Gergorin

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How does he view the next 10 years? "I see an uncertain world with infinitely more complex alliances," Gergorin says, while twirling his red musketeer's mustache. "It will be a world resembling the Europe of the 19th century, without hegemonic notions but with profound religious movements. You will see the rise of countries such as Japan and Brazil. Each one will have its own nuclear bomb. The result? Moscow and Washington will no longer be able to control the local conflicts that will take place while the superpowers stand back helpless." He takes a sip of tea. "But if they know how to adapt, France and Europe will have more freedom."

Administration: Elisabeth Bukspan

Where are the Simone Veils of tomorrow? In the corridors of the French administration, where several unknowns are already climbing the steps to power with a nimble step. They will come to the fore and stand in the spotlight one day. With a serious charm and biting wit, Elisabeth Bukspan is among them, first of all because at 27 years of age, she was the first woman to be directly accepted into the Finance Inspectorate upon graduation from the ENA and second, because in the last citadel of male technocrats, she has been able to make a place for herself.



Elisabeth Bukspan

One who knows what she is talking about, Francoise Giroud predicts that she will enjoy a destiny that will be the envy of all the machos in France. But let them take heart, Elisabeth Bukspan is not a "feminist," even if she has given several economic reports before the candidates of the Choisir [Choose] movement at the time of the last legislative elections. Nor is she a technocrat: "Women are too down-to-earth to get involved in abstractions," she says. "I know how much a loaf of bread costs. Do you think all my colleagues do?"

Matignon: Albert Costa de Beauregard

His name is not even in "Who's Who," but since Albert Costa de Beauregard is not a man to leave anything to chance, this omission is probably not

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any accident. During his lightning career, he has learned that staying in the background was helpful to high officials.



Albert Costa de Beauregard

A technical adviser to the prime minister, who listens to him and is not above passing off his better formulas as his own, Albert Costa de Beauregard is, at the age of 37, one of the key men in the "Giscard system." It is he who, along with Francois Polge de Combret, the kingpin at the Elysee Palace, developed the policy of "industrial redeployment."

How far will this thoroughbred who graduated from the Polytechnical Institute go? For the time being, he is limited to coldly serving what Nietzsche called "the coldest of the cold monsters": the state. "I do not like patronizing policies," he is fond of saying. With a mind for specifics, he has difficulty concealing his repugnancy for demagoguery, but he always telephones the ministers who are ousted when there are shakeups: "Don't worry, we are concerned about you." And he has been smart enough to attach himself to Giscard in order not to sink tomorrow with Barre.

Press: Bernard Meaulle

The point of departure for the Meaulle saga was the visit of Robert Hersant and his checkbook to their little family newspaper in Bernay (Eure) on a Saturday in 1973. The future political editor of LE FIGARO wanted to offer them a good price for a small weekly newspaper they had begun in Lisieux only a short time ago, a newspaper that was going well. If they resisted, there would be war, and war it was! The two brothers, Bernard and Philippe, decided to stand up to the man who was in the process of becoming the owner of the largest news empire in France.

The result? A tax inspector descended upon their small enterprise -- a printing press plus two weekly newspapers -- and Robert Hersant took away at a stroke the newspapers they had been putting out for him. Panic set in and

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Bernard Meaulle

in order to start up their now idle offset presses, the Meaulle brothers bought several Norman newspapers and became caught up in the fight.

Today, with 11 different newspapers, from LE COURRIER DE MANTES to L'IMPARTIAL DES ANDELYS, the Meaulle brothers head the first group of regional weeklies, ahead of Citizen Hersant, if you please. Turnover totals 40 million francs. As for sales, they are spiraling. Why? "Because we do not print newspapers for the big names but for our readers," says Bernard Meaulle, with his ever-present necktie and dauntless spirit.

After the purchase of LE COURRIER DES YVELINES in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, he is now at the gates of Paris. When will the excited manager make his first incursion?

Press: Jean-Charles Lignel

Lignel? Did you say Lignel? When he bought LE PROGRES (circulation 400,000) in March, all eyes turned to this unknown man. It is true that the purchase operation itself was not anything ordinary. It took place in the chambers of the Paris Commercial Court, as the result of private bidding with the Bremond family, co-owners of the newspaper (and at war with him). Jean-Charles Lignel carried off the 50 percent he needed. For 115 million francs, he became the absolute master of one of the most prestigious French newspapers. There was general amazement. In Paris, no one believed that this socialistic manager could win this formidable poker game with enemy heirs. To say the least, he did not enjoy the favors of the government. Lignel, the anti-Hersant.

Then the curtain fell. Everyone went about his daily routine while speaking absent-mindedly about the latest projects of the "great." Paris did not realize that the affair was continuing, for in Lyon, Jean-Charles Lignel was setting about returning LE PROGRES to its readers. His objective was to turn it into a newspaper "as serious as LE MONDE, as professional as LE MATIN, an inventive as LIBE and as courageous as the WASHINGTON POST." Nothing less. In short, he intended to make it the first true French regional daily.

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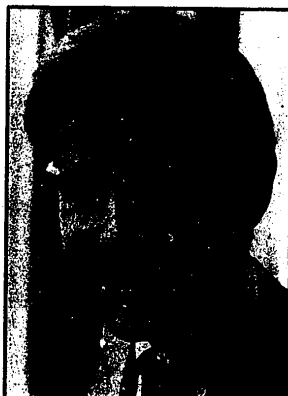


Jean-Charles Lignel

Will he succeed? Already a shareholder of L'Expansion, this persevering scientist and jogging enthusiast has not taken one false step. He is a man of the press and when he has relaunched LE PROGRES, it is very possible that he will in turn plunge into the great battle of Paris. The first charge? In a few weeks, he will publish the new formula of ACTUEL.

Business: Alain Minc

If you are every on the Champ-de-Mars and run across a slender, smiling young man (a social democrat) making mud pies with his tiny son, Edouard, it will certainly be Alain Minc. Hired at the age of 29 as a moneylender by one of the main French multinational companies, he willingly refers to himself as a "kid." If he is one, he is at the head of his class because for his peers, he has the makings of a big boss.



Alain Minc

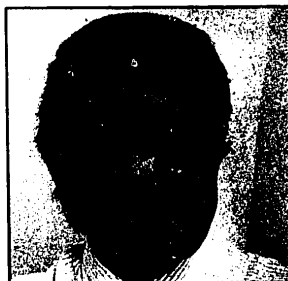
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A political science major, he graduated at the top of his class -- the Leon-Blum class, 1975 -- and went directly to the Finance Inspectorate. He then joined with Simon Nora -- who has always known with whom to associate -- to publish a highly praised report on "The Computerization of Society," he took leave of the Rue-de-Rivoli. Why? Because he now believes that one better serves France in business than in the high administration. He had gone to the barricades in May 1968. Who would now believe it? He says softly: "You do not brutalize a big enterprise. You change it gently, without sweeping everything away."

Business: Jean-Luc Maury-Laribiere

A miracle took place in Roumazieres, a calm little village in Charente. Is there then a saint? In 1970, the turnover of the French Tile and Brickworks (TBF) amounted to 5 million francs. Eight years later, it totaled 24 million. The enterprise was hiring as fast as it could.



Jean-Luc Maury-Laribiere

The sound and look of Actor's Studio -- the school for Hollywood's stars -- a charmer but self-assertive, Jean-Luc Maury-Laribiere is not a saint. He is only a boss who does not hesitate to take risks -- and blows. While Francois Ceyrac or Yvon Chotard are on the road, he is the kind of manager who is in the process of rebuilding French industry.

Since he took over the reins of the business from his father, vice president of the CNPF [National Council of French Employers], this captain of industry has gone at it hammer and tong. Taking advantage of the the French trend toward individual housing, the TBF diversified production "with several shapes of tile that can each have eight colors." The company also improved working conditions ("No one ever touches a tile anymore; everything is automatic") and reduced energy consumption by 35 percent (the equivalent of domestic gas consumption for a city of 30,000 inhabitants).

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Why has he risen so fast? In his battles to win the roofs of France just as in his soccer games with the TBF company team, Jean-Luc Maury-Laribiere hates to lose.

Industry: Francis Lorentz

He does not have an imposing presence. How is one to imagine that this busy young man, in his unpaneled office and with his general management air, would be one of the key men of the French economy? And yet, he is! A king-pin of the Industrial Structures Adaptation Fund (IASI) in the Ministry of Finance, Francis Lorentz distributes 3 billion francs in public aid to small and medium-size enterprises. Using what criteria? "First of all, I go by the chairmen of the board and their ability to take risks," says this ENA graduate who also studied at the HEC [School for Advanced Business Studies]. He adds: "My mission is to develop jobs in future holes, to help companies that are performing well." In other words, not the lame ducks.



Francis Lorentz

Why has Francis Lorentz' star risen so rapidly? Probably because he took the bet, creating 16,000 jobs in a year, and because this pragmatic Alsatian has a businesslike mind: "The government must agree not to always bet on certainties," he says between puffs on his pipe. His point of honor? Not to work on weekends "so that I can clear my head." His obsession? This great traveler -- he has toured the United States, China and India in hiking boots and with a backpack -- is scandalized by the narrow nationalism of management and the administration at a time of world economic war.

Trade Unions: Andre Sainjon

Fate is apparently what guides the heavy step of Andre Sainjon, the new star of Georges Seguy's confederation and a former turner in Saint-Denis, where

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Andre Sainjon

he still lives, in a low-cost housing program. If he is a trade unionist, this son of the free school, it is because of circumstances. When he returned from military service in 1964, his plant refused to grant him the promotion that was rightfully his. The CGT [General Confederation of Labor] became involved, he won his case and immediately joined.

A few months later, the secretary of the trade union was called to another post in the Confederation. Andre Sainjon replaced him. Much later, he was also at the right place at the right time when Georges Seguy was looking for a dynamic individual for the leadership of the metallurgy federation, which was in bad shape. Since 1977 then, he has been in charge of an army of 320,000 metalworkers, determined to take up the battle of unionization.

What is the reason for his lightning career? He is a methodical pragmatist, of the Seguy type. A member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, he is certainly not a man to upset CGT traditions. But this calm young father, who has just bought a second home (on credit) in Oise, is fond of saying, as his secretary general is: "I believe that too many paralyzing routines halt our action in enterprises." Among the orthodox and modernist CGT officials, Andre Sainjon splashes about so comfortably that he already looks like an heir apparent.

Trade Unions: Jean Kaspar

"The miner's lot long ago was very hard, and I know what I am talking about...."

Like the old poet Jules Mousseron, Jean Kaspar also knows what he is talking about. At the age of 17, he was a pit boy, an apprentice miner. When he came out of the pits 8 years later, it was to take over the leadership of the CFDT Miners Union. "It was wrenching!" he says in his beautiful bass voice. "I felt like I was leaving part of myself down there. You could never imagine the feeling of brotherhood that exists in the pits."

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Jean Kaspar

Under his leadership, his union has begun to breathe down the neck of the all-powerful CGT among the miners, which does not keep Kaspar from admitting that he owes everything to the CFDT: "It made me what I am." He worships it because it is "ahead of its time." Unhurried and fiercely provincial, at the last congress he refused to be sent to the confederal bureau, to Paris. Among the rank and file in his stronghold in the east, he listens to Verdi, reads "Le Capitalisme Utopique" by Pierre Rosanvallon, and listens to the hum of the factories. What he is hungry for right now is knowledge; he is not lacking in ability. But it is obvious that when the generation of Maires and Chereques needs to be relieved, it is toward Alsace and this dark, strapping young man that it will turn.

Trade Unions: Pierre Vanlerenberghe



Pierre Vanlerenberghe

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A riddle: Where do the great leaders of the most sulfurous trade union confederation come from? From the Chemical Federation, naturally! Like Edmond Maire and Jacques Moreau, who for a long time was the "political head" of the CFDT, Pierre Vanlerenberghe also rose from the mold of the Chemical Federation. The result: This hefty young man from Ncrd, the son and grandson of coal miners, is a theoretician and tactician, in short, a complete trade unionist.

Along with Jacques Chereque, he is one of the key men of the policy to "recenter" the CFDT. For him, "trade unions can no longer be content to protest. They must also propose." Can Pierre Vanlerenberghe hope one day to take over control of the second-ranking workers confederation in France? Probably not, because he is part of management. But just as the shadows are beneficial to mushrooms, they may also be to men of this stripe. Following the departure of Jacques Moreau, a socialist elected to the European Parliament, he is in the process of taking his place as one of the greats in the Confederation.

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COUNTRY SECTION

FRANCE

ASW EQUIPMENT ADVANCES DESCRIBED

Paris ARMEEES D'AUJOURD'HUI in French Oct 79 pp 62-63

[Article by Commander Jean-Yves Cochevelou; "Information Science Supports Acoustic Detection--Half a Century of Evolution in ASW Equipment"]

[Text] All efforts made for the past 40 years with regard to ASW equipment were intended to give ASW forces a real offensive capacity against an adversary who still retains the initiative in terms of attack and evasion. Equipment changes over the years necessitate major conversions on vessels carrying such equipment, vessels whose lifetime then can be extended to as much as 30 years. (Commander Jean-Yves Cochevelou, class of 1956 at the Naval Academy, graduated as ASW officer in 1964; he was in charge of ASW on board the destroyer "Dupetit-Thouars," the fast frigate "Le Picard," and the destroyer "Vauquelin" during the reorganization of ASW equipment on that vessel in 1969-1970. After graduating from the Naval War College in 1975, he commanded the frigate "Amyot-d'Inville" in 1977-1978, before being put in charge of the "submarine detection section" at the MAT/SSM bureau, Naval General Staff.)

Since the end of World War I, France has been greatly contributing to the development of acoustic detection principles so that, between the two wars, it was able to build a large submarine fleet; but French surface vessels, on the eve of World War II, were strangely devoid of any ASW equipment.

1945-1965: Severe Handicap to Overcome

In 1945, France had a severe handicap to overcome and the ASW system placed on the vessels under the naval program still represented only the latest technique developed by the allies at the end of the war.

It included an assembly of surveillance and attack sonars with high emission frequency (15-25 khz); the flat antennas with magnetostrictive

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transducers permitted sweeps only "by bounds" every 10 degrees of a half-circle whose radius rarely exceeded 2,500 m.

The main weapon at that time was the K2 torpedo which was very fast but totally unsmart (which necessitated the launch of a spread of three and even six torpedoes in order to cover the area where the submarine might be); its range was less than 1,200 m.

At the same time, the endurance of the submarine and its submerged speed as well as its acoustic security were improved. Submarines were armed with electrical torpedoes equipped with a passive acoustic warhead, with a range of 100,000 m.

1965-1975: From Hull Sonar to Towed Sonar

To increase the intrinsic performance of sonar, it was necessary to emit more energy, to lower the emission frequency in order to reduce the attenuation undergone by the acoustic waves in the water. Piezoelectric ceramics permitted the reduction of the frequency to 5 khz [cps]; transducers were mounted in a column along a fixed cylindrical antenna; sound-proofing became omnidirectional and the total capacity was multiplied by 30. Upon reception, the sweep was accomplished electronically with the help of the preshaped tracks; surveillance became panoramic.

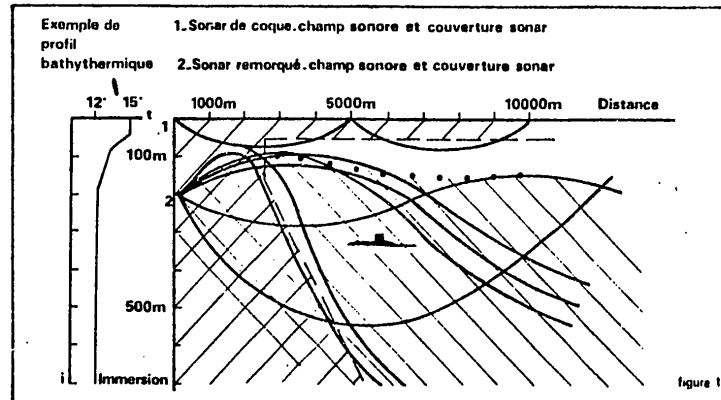
The commissioning of DUBV (ultrasound detection, surface vessel, surveillance) 24, a low-frequency hull sonar, permitted the first modernization of submarine detection equipment. Starting in 1964, most of the fast frigates, beginning with the "Le Lorrain," were then converted for this new capability, along with some destroyers which at the same time were equipped with the Tartar AA weapons system.

The L3 electrical torpedo came out during the early sixties and gradually replaced the K2 torpedo. Its effective range exceeded 3,000 m, which made it compatible with the performance of the DUBV 24. Its search head (a small active sonar) enabled it to locate the target within a radius of 300-800 meters, making it more difficult for the submarine to hide.

But the sound wave was propagated along a straight line only if the environment was perfectly homogeneous. Now, variations in pressure and temperature divided the liquid volume into an infinite number of slices with different densities, each acting as a dioptre upon the acoustic radius. The very considerable temperature variations in the first 200 m impose sinusoidal tracks upon the sound radii which leave vast areas without any sound proofing and that naturally is where the submarine will then operate.

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Example of bathythermal profile. Key: 1--hull sonar, sound field and sonar coverage; 2--towed sonar, sound field and sonar coverage; Distance--range.

The only solution is to submerge the antenna under the disturbed layer; it would take a certain degree of boldness and much tenacity to manage to tow a sonar weighing 10 t, submerged as far as 200 m down, that is, the DUBV 43--moreover at high speeds. It is associated with the DUBV 23 sonar, mounted in a dome on the vessel's stern, assuring sound proofing above the layer.

Although the tightness of sonar coverage is not always totally assured, the average performances of this tandem arrangement are between 5,000 and 12,000 m. Combining it with a coherent weapon created a new problem: The volume of uncertainty, tied to the imprecision relating to the vector-target, increasing with movement time, plus the risk of coming disproportionate with relation to the weapon's action volume; the latter, the light torpedo L4--which can also be carried by aircraft--is thus carried by a subsonic missile, remote-controlled in flight, the Malafon, released along a vertical from the target. In 1968, we had an extremely coherent assembly of detection equipment and weapon, the DUBV 23/43--Malafon. It was intalled on board five destroyers, along with considerable improvement of other facilities, so that it came to constitute a spectacular conversion which, in the light of practical experience, was particularly successful. This assembly was also placed on new vessels and, during the early seventies, made it possible to confront the submarine with equal weapons.

But at that time, the submarine acquired nuclear propulsion.

Armed with very-long-range torpedoes (such as the wire-guided F-7 torpedo), the submarine thus acquired mobility and action capabilities way out of proportion.

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Information Science Tomorrow

We thus face the problem of paring down the decisive mobility acquired by the nuclear submarine, an advantage which however is somewhat offset by a certain acoustic stridency which of course is the price that has to be paid for speed. We had to capitalize on this stridency by "listening to it" while remaining capable of detecting the submarine, running silent, by active means. The supplementary need for active and passive systems then appeared evident.

Passive listening at very low frequency permits great detection ranges; spectral analysis of signals received will here detect the possible presence of a noise source which is then identified by its acoustic signature.

A priority effort was then made to equip submarines and surface vessels with this new detection and classification capability.

Keeping our active systems up to date on the other hand forces us to push the potential of the DUBV 43 family to the maximum.

We are not so much concerned here with increasing the nominal performances of the sonar but rather with reducing the false alarm rate and, above all, improving the coverage in the disturbed layer. To do that, we have to run the towed antenna even deeper and the short-term objective here is to attain a submersion of 500 and then 700 m.

The Malafon thus remains compatible with active detection systems and, in case of passive, long-range detection, the on-board helicopter is sent out to attack the submarine. The L5 torpedo followed the L3 torpedo as a close-in attack weapon (up to 5,000 m).

Equipment to be placed in service by the end of the decade will essentially be characterized by very great information science integration of active and passive systems in the ASW system as such, seeking optimum handling of all detectors; the vast volume of signals received will be processed by powerful data processing equipment which will sort, correlate, and filter an enormous volume of data in order to make the latter digestible by a small number of operators.

The search for optimum performance will lead to a situation where antennas will have to be submerged down to the critical level--something which was demonstrated by the Cormoran experiments; that will guarantee total coverage (down to 40,000 m with an active sonar).

(If we submerge the antenna to such a depth that, due to the pressure, the speed of its sound will be equal there to the speed at the vicinity of the surface, then the acoustic wave will avoid the uncertainties of the disturbed layer; the submersion considered critical is between 800 m and 4,000 m, depending upon the zones and times involved.)

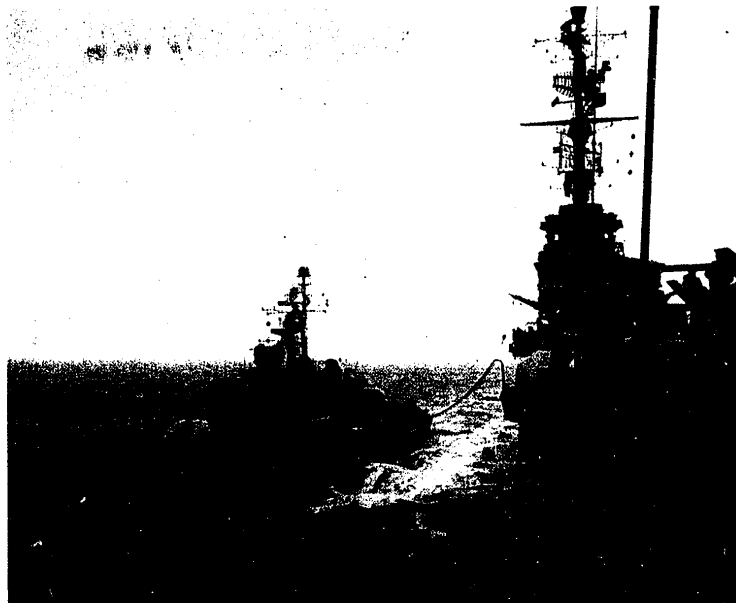
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A suitable weapon will then have to be developed; a new light torpedo will come out around 1990 and it will have to be matched with a new delivery vehicle.

These "second-generation" equipment items will thus represent a noticeable change so that we are, as of now, envisaging the adaptation of this equipment to our most recent unit, in terms of mid-life modernization (beyond 1990).

We have just reviewed almost half a century of ASW equipment on combat vessels. But ASW does not boil down just to the unequal duel between the destroyer and the submarine. To challenge the submarine over the initiative, it is, to say the least, important to restrict its freedom of action by confronting it with complex devices covering vast areas and subjecting it to the wear and tear of permanent constraint. These devices include ASW submarines, aircraft, surveillance systems, and surface vessels and it is the coordinated employment of all of these systems that will make it possible to meet the submarine threat.



Destroyer converted for ASW: The "Maille-Breze."

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COUNTRY SECTION

FRANCE

ASW VESSEL CHARACTERISTICS NOTED

Paris ARMEES D'AUJOURD'HUI in French Oct 79 pp 50-51

[Article by Commander Michel Herreman: "A Light Vessel Suitable for ASW"]

[Text] Several phases characterize the design of a warship in the French navy. The "operations" division in the Navy General Staff prepares a memorandum spelling out the operational requirements which serve as the initial and sole basic text. The "materiel" division then translates this requirement into a military program, generally subjected to approval by the Higher Council of the Navy and addressed to the General Delegation for Armament or the Shipbuilding and Naval Weapons Technical Directorate. The dialogue then is continued and developed in depth between the DTCN [Shipbuilding Technical Directorate] (possibly its technical offshoot, the STCAN [Shipbuilding and Naval Weapons Technical Service]) and the EMM [Naval General Staff] and this in turn leads to the draft-project and project based on the "overall specifications" for the ship which, after approval, are further broken down into "detailed specifications" addressed to the shipyard that will build the vessel. The procedure thus described for example was applied to the program for frigates of the "d'Estienne d'Orves" type. (Commander Michel Herreman entered the Navy Academy in 1955. After graduating from the ESCN [Naval War College], he has, since 1977, been assigned to the "Fleet A-building" Bureau, "materiel" division, naval general staff, where is particularly concerned with programs for small vessels (frigates, light transport vessels, minesweepers, etc.)

During the second half of the sixties, the need for replacing the 600-t corvettes of the "Chamois" class and the coastal escort vessels persuaded the naval general staff to launch a program for the construction of light vessels whose primary mission would be ASW in coastal waters.

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Vessel With Good Handling Characteristics

During its 29 November 1967 meeting, the Higher Navy Council--after rejecting a more ambitious project submitted by the STCAN--picked the corvette as a simple vessel to be built in large numbers, with a tonnage of around 850 t at a cost of F40 million (at 1967 prices), all taxes included; it was agreed, in order to remain within this framework, to accept sacrifices on certain performance figures, especially in artillery and speed.

The military characteristics of this vessel were spelled out early in 1968 and in November of that year it was approved by the Higher Navy Council and the characteristics were then confirmed by the minister in January 1969.

The corvette thus defined was to meet the following characteristics: A vessel with good handling qualities and excellent seaworthiness, with the ability to attain a speed of 23 kn, supplied by two diesel engines, each driving one screw with adjustable blade. Its range at 15 kn was to be 4,500 nm (8,300 kn) while at 18 kn it was to be 3,000 nm (5,500 kn). Its endurance was to be 15 days. All quarters as well as engineering and operational compartments were equipped with air conditioning. The complement was set at 60, including officers, for peacetime missions in the home country. Additional bunk space was provided--for about 30 men--to handle training, overseas, and wartime missions.

Since a cost ceiling on construction and operation is an absolute program requirement and a basic condition for its development, the "weapons" stations were simple, light-weight, using proven weapons.

The artillery consists of the following:

A remote-controlled 100-mm mount, equipped with a light fire control unit which, in addition to its AA capability, can be used to fire at surface targets and at targets ashore; the ammunition supply here is 450 rounds;

Two 20-mm mounts with 3,000 rounds per barrel.

The AS weapons are as follows:

A six-barrel, 375-mm rocket launcher with improved rocket, with a storage capacity for 30 rockets;

Four fixed torpedo tubes capable of launching L-3 and L-5 torpedoes.

Submarine detection is provided by a surveillance and attack sonar of medium frequency, in a fixed dome, having a good capacity in shallow water and performances corresponding to the range of the ASW armament provided.

The electromagnetic detection equipment comprises a combined light surveillance radar.

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For training purposes, a gangway, provided with navigation equipment, is located aft of the chart house. In its overseas version, all or a portion of the ASW weapons system is taken out in order to increase the volumes available for "personnel and equipment transport."

The study for the corvette project, which we have just described, was undertaken simultaneously by the STCAN and by several private shipyards.

As is the custom in such matters, a dialogue was established between the EMM and the STCAN, leading in January 1971 to the approval of the overall vessel specifications; in the meantime the tonnage had gone up to 1,160 t and the price had risen to F80 million (at January 1970 prices).

This corvette differed a little bit from the one initially planned and this among other things was due to two essential reasons. The first was connected to the reorganization of ranks in the navy; for example, the number of line officers was increased from 19 to 30 and that necessitated major changes in the interior setup.

The second one resulted from the adoption of the MM-38 weapons system, in addition to the 100-mm artillery.

This vessel nevertheless remained what it was supposed to have been in the first place, that is, simple, requiring little personnel and of course low-costs.

Within two years, between 1972 and 1974, the minister ordered the construction of 14 of those vessels which were to be ready for official trials between 1975 and 1979. The Lorient arsenal was put in charge of the studies and the construction for this series.

The first of these vessels, the "d'Estienne d'Orves," was commissioned for active service in 1976, practically at the same time as the next two vessels; there is nothing unusual about that since the trials for a prototype vessel are definitely more complete than those for a series-produced vessel.

After that, the Lorient arsenal turned over to the French navy the corvette which it built; the regular rate at which these vessels come off the assembly line may sometimes be disrupted by sales to foreign customers. But is this not proof of the quality of the French navy's corvette?

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In the Storeroom of 100 mm Artillery

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