

this, President Chirac of France in defiance of global consensus on raising tensions and suspicion, and even to promote again the extension and proliferation of nuclear weapons testing and development, France has already now exploded five nuclear bombs to improve its nuclear delivery capabilities with its long-distance missiles.

It might interest my colleagues that French Government officials—and they're masters of these ploys—a few leaks here and some leaks there—some critical points that President Chirac is going to shove right at our noses at the joint session of Congress next Thursday.

First, a warning to Republican leaders and the President that closing our Government down will have serious economic consequences not only to France but to Europe and other regions of the world.

Second, that the United States contributes too little in foreign aid to Third World countries.

Third, that the United States should live up to its global responsibilities, whatever that means.

Fourth, that United States contributions to the crisis in Bosnia is not enough, but at the same time, France expects to play very prominent, if not, the leading role as far as Europe is concerned relative to Bosnia.

And fifth, France does not want any nation of the world to criticize its current nuclear testing program, because France does not trust the United States involvement with Europe's security needs for the past 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to my colleagues that what we're going to get from President Chirac next week is not the eloquence of Marquis de Lafayette, but the ghost of Charles de Gaulle II.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following article from the January 24 New York Times for the RECORD:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 24, 1996]

POSSIBILITY OF DEFAULT STARTS TO WORRY  
EUROPE, ESPECIALLY FRANCE

(By Craig R. Whitney)

PARIS, January 23.—The possibility that the deficit-cutting impasse between Congress and the Clinton Administration could start causing the United States Government to default on its debt next month has begun to sink in on European leaders, and the French are anxious to avoid the turmoil that could result.

President Jacques Chirac, who will visit Washington next week, is prepared to warn in a speech to a joint session of Congress that default would upset economies around the world and deeply undermine the American global position, French officials said today.

Congressional Republicans have threatened to refuse to raise the national debt limit unless the Clinton Administration agrees to their agenda for cutting the Federal deficit. If the Administration refuses to give in and fails to find other ways of coming up with money, the Government could start running out of money to pay obligations due on March 1.

At this point, some European leaders are said to be beginning to feel like onlookers at a political game whose players appear little concerned about the chaos a default would

cause in international currency and bond markets.

Some see a situation comparable to that in 1975, when Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany felt compelled to warn President Gerald R. Ford that letting New York City go bankrupt could send economic shock waves around the world, which was still fragile from the effects of a sudden rise in oil prices.

Mr. Chirac told the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, and Speaker Newt Gingrich during his last visit to Washington in the summer that the United States gave too little foreign aid to developing countries, and French officials say that he plans to deliver the same message to Congress in an address planned for Feb. 1.

"We hope that Congress will be disposed to let the United States live up to its global responsibilities," one official here said.

Mr. Chirac will tell Congress, French officials say, that Europe, with about the same size economy as the United States, gives three times as much to developing countries—\$31 billion, compared with less than \$9 billion last year from the United States.

"Where is America and its traditional generosity, where is its desire to help reshape the world?" asked one French policy maker.

Mr. Chirac is also likely to use his visit to tell both Congress and the Administration that France will insist on reshaping the NATO alliance to reflect changes since the end of the cold war, according to officials in Brussels and Paris.

Mr. Chirac has reintegrated France into some NATO military structures that it left in 1966, but officials say he did so to push for the creation of a stronger European defense arm within the alliance. "We need to be able to deal with crises like Bosnia even if the United States doesn't want to become involved," an official said.

Mr. Chirac may also tell Washington that American plans to contribute \$600 million to the reconstruction of Bosnia over the next three years are inadequate. European estimates of the total cost run to \$3.7 billion. "Don't think that the Europeans will be the only ones paying for Bosnian reconstruction," Mr. Chirac said in a recent interview, adding that the Europeans expected the United States to pay about the same as they will—about one third.

American officials have responded that the United States committed 20,000 soldiers to the NATO peacekeeping force that began moving into Bosnia last month, a larger contingent than any of its allies.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1719

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY) at 5 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was com-

municated to the House by Mr. McCathran, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2880, THE BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2880) and that it shall be in order at any time to consider the bill in the House; that the bill be debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be equally divided and controlled by myself and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY]; that all points of order against the bill and against its consideration be waived; and that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to the final passage without intervening motion, except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, I simply want to take this reservation in order to observe that, unlike so many episodes which the public has seen lately in the Congress where divisions among us have caused great turmoil and consternation both on the floor and throughout the country, both sides of the political aisle have worked very hard and very intensively with a great deal of involvement of people on both sides of the aisle in order to assure that we can overcome major differences and keep the Government open.

I would simply, in continuing my reservation, make the point that there are some items in the proposition which the gentleman from Louisiana is about to bring to the House with which I have strong disagreement; for example, the reduced level of funding for education and a number of other items in the bill. But I think the overriding need of the country is for us to overcome our differences, or at least manage to live with those differences, especially since this is a CR of short-term duration, with the exception of a couple of items in the bill.

So I would simply say that I want to congratulate the gentleman from Louisiana for the way he has handled this difficult task. I am pleased to say that the White House, while they certainly do not agree with every provision in this bill, as I do not, they have signed off on this as a short-term compromise. I very much appreciate both the way they have handled things and the way the gentleman from Louisiana and other Members on both sides of the aisle have handled this.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. If the gentleman would yield to me, before he withdraws his reservation.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I