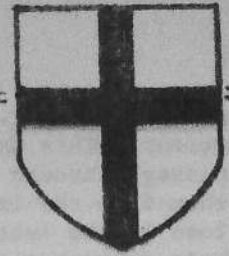


# BRETON NEWS



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## RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

Rennes 19-10-'66

Following an agreement between the Breton branches of the two most important trade unions, CGT and CFDT, a peaceful demonstration in which 12,000-15,000 workers participated took place at Rennes on October 19th. The CGT expressed concern for "the future of our children and of Brittany". One of the slogans on the posters carried by the demonstrators said: NO TO DEPORTATION. This slogan, which was first put forward by the Breton nationalists a few years ago, is more and more accepted by the Breton masses struggling for their existence. The workers were protesting against the closing of their factories one after the other in a process which amounts to a planned dismantling of the Breton economy. The demonstration testified to the unanimity of all social classes in their demand for work in Brittany.

Kemper 9-12-'66

3000 people whose livelihood depends on poultry farming demonstrated against a slump in eggs and chicken prices. Workers, employers, middlemen, fodder producers were all united in defence of their interests.

Since last Summer, prices had fallen steadily from 3fr/kg to 2.6 fr/kg, thus making it impossible for the producers to make any profit. The crisis arose from a drop in exports to Germany from 8,500 tons to 5,000 tons between 1965 and 1966. Breton poultry farmers are at a disadvantage in the competition with the Dutch on the German market because the latter can buy grain at low prices abroad and they can sell cheaper because of lower transport costs. Moreover there is a feeling that they get subsidies from their government.

Two years ago, the French Agriculture Minister Pisani negotiated advantageous conditions for the French wheat growers within the Common Market. In exchange he chose to sacrifice the French Poultry farmers who happen to be mostly Breton. It fits well within a plan to thin out the Breton population. Poultry farming provides directly or indirectly a livelihood to 150,000 people in our country. It is particularly suited to the character of the area (small holdings, favourable conditions for oat and buckwheat growing) and helped greatly to curb emigration in the past 10 years.

Montroulez (Morlaix) 19-12-'66.

The protest made on December 9 having remained without effect, 5000 poultry farmers and workers in slaughter-houses from all over Brittany converged on Montroulez on Dec. 19, bringing with them live chickens and eggs. They paraded through the town and from loudspeakers denounced the Brussels agreements signed "on their back" by the French Government (suppression of aid to exports, markets left unorganised). At the beginning of the afternoon, they addressed an ultimatum to the government asking it to buy immediately 3,000 tons of chickens for the army, and further to take 500 tons every week till fair conditions were re-established in the competition with other European producers. They asked for a revision of the Brussels agreement to allow for export subsidies.

After hearing that the government was doing nothing to solve the crisis, a commando of about 50 men, supported by 5-600 others, invaded the townhall, broke its windows, smashed its furniture and threw its files into the streets. Another group overturned a police car and set fire to it. The police was bombarded with eggs and plastic bags filled with chicken blood. An attack was probably first planned on the government building (sous-prefecture), but it was heavily guarded. After 2 hours riot police intervened, threw tear gas grenades and dispersed the demonstrators.

Impressed by the violence of the riot, the French government announced that the army would immediately buy 2,000 tons of chicken.

During the previous night, dozens of telephonic poles had been cut down in the North and West of Brittany. Later during the week, similar acts were committed in the Karaez area. And on December 29th many road blocks were set up in the country West of Kemper.

Fishermen in Kemper. On January 26th, Prime Minister Pompidou visited the Finistere department. This date was fixed by the fishermen for a demonstration to coincide with his passage through Kemper. They wanted to protest against the difficulties arising for them from the import of foreign fish into France. Numerous canning factories had to close in the last few years in the South of Brittany.

Their demonstration was forbidden however. Access to Kemper was barred by numerous police checks. Nevertheless about 1000 fishermen, using byways, succeeded in reaching Kemper. For 2 hours they faced the police forces. Projectiles were thrown at the latter and it came to blows. They were finally dispersed by tear gas. They refused afterwards to send a delegation to meet Pompidou.

Their spokesman stated that fishing and connected industries were an essential element in the economy of Southern Brittany and that fish imports should be allowed only to supplement their catches. (See Page 6)

The Kemper population expressed its solidarity with the fishermen by remaining reserved towards Pompidou or even by booing him. Telephone poles were cut down in the North of Finistere to show disapproval of the Prime Minister's visit in Kastellpol.

F.L.B. In the middle of November, police discovered 3 cans of petrol connected by detonating cord on the door-steps of the taxation office in Lorient. On a wall nearby the letters F.L.B., which stand for "Front for the Liberation of Brittany", were scribbled. Other warnings were given recently by this clandestine organisation.

Jail sentence. On the 19th October, two young Bretons, Yannig Cocher and Alan Gachet were sentenced in Saint-Nazaire to 2 months jail and a fine of 1000 francs each for the burning of "public utility objects", namely 3 French flags.

They stated that this flag should not be flown in Brittany because it was, as in so many oversea territories before, synonymous with deportation and colonialism. By forcing -- economically -- thousands and thousands of young Bretons to leave their country every year, France was guilty of genocide. Their aim was to draw attention to the political and economic situation of Brittany and to the destruction of her personality.

The attorney-general -- who approved of the Breton soul (?) -- was sadly impressed by their use of the terms "deportation" and "genocide" and told his dislike at having received on behalf of the accused (about 140) letters or testimonies in Breton, with an English but no French translation. This was actually a petition by people in the other Celtic countries.

Cocher and Gachet appealed against the sentence. The case was brought on January 10th, before the Court of Appeal in Rennes. Their solicitor pleaded that they represented the Breton youth and its worries and that they had acted out of idealism.

The court's decision was not given till January 24 and confirmed the original sentence.

CODERS ARE USELESS: The Commissions for Regional Development (CODER) were created for the purpose of advising the French government in its planning. They have no powers. Only a minority of their members are elected representatives. A quarter of them are appointed by the government. It is now generally agreed that they cannot, as presently constituted, properly defend regional interests. Mr. Pleven, President of the CODER for "Region Brittany", referring to the outspoken criticism of these institutions by his colleagues in the North and the South of France, stated that they were transitional.

In LA VIE BRETONNE, J. Martray asks "How are they to evolve?" "Will they become regional commissions composed of delegates from the Conseils Generaux (County Councils)? or will they, in order to lend a concrete form to the "regional" spirit, be replaced by assemblies endowed with powers of decision, even if this aim is reached only by stages?"

Meeting of the RENNES CODER: At its sixth meeting, on the 13-14 January the Rennes CODER studied the extent to which the region is getting its promised share in the execution of the 5th French Plan and how far its advice had been taken into account.

The Commission recorded unanimously its disappointment at finding that, in spite of its efforts to make the French government aware of the realities and dangers of the Breton situation, practically no notice had been taken of its recommendations. It asked for more positive attributions and announced that it would put forward reform proposals to enable it to properly fulfil its function. They would wait for this however until after the March general elections.

As far as Region Brittany is concerned, the execution of the 5th Plan is already jeopardised. It aimed at creating 27,000 new industrial jobs: it is already clear that not only half that figure would be reached. They were also falling very short of their objectives in housing. The region compared very unfavourably with other areas in the East, in the South and around Paris where imposing national projects were in the course of realization. Industrial decentralisation had come to a standstill as far as the three Westernmost Breton departments are concerned. (Note that it is here that Breton is spoken, B.N.)



Investments in Brittany this year will be 31% below the 1966 figure. Yet this year, there are 40,000 young Bretons arriving on the labour market compared to 31,000 last year.

#### Election time and reality

On the one hand, government members proclaim that they are fully aware of the Breton problem and that they will actively pursue a decentralisation policy. Anyway, said Pisani, the Bretons don't give us a chance to forget them -- an allusion to their frequent demonstrations. In November, the government organised an air-trip for 18 journalists who flew over all the new enterprises started in Brittany since ... 1954 and heard them being put on de Gaulle's credit.

On the other hand, the Minister for Information, whose special job it is to watch developments in Brittany, states that it is utopian to believe in industrial decentralisation. And Pompidou warned that the present tendency is towards greater disparities between the regions. The 5th Plan confirms this view since it foresees a decrease by 5% in the active population of Brittany while for the whole of the State territory a 6% increase is expected.

**NO TO EEC SUBVENTION:** Following the trip to Brittany of the European Parliament's Agricultural Commission last June, the Executive Commission of the EEC in Brussels was asked by the Council of Ministers to subsidize a study of the problem of Brittany's economic development. But the French representative, Mr. Boulin, vetoed the request. France does not permit that the Bretons use their own money for their own development needs; nor does she tolerate that they appeal directly to the EEC for aid. However it is quite normal for her to sign international agreements directly with the Province of Quebec.

**NO TO BREIZH NEVEZ:** The Association BREIZH NEVEZ (New Brittany) created for the purpose of pooling efforts to provide employment in Brittany was to hold a big meeting at Rostrenen on October 23. As a result of pressures exerted by the government office in Sant-Brieg on the main participants, this meeting had to be cancelled at the last moment. 2000 people had been invited. Everything in the association's statutes was constitutional. Its aim was purely economical. It placed its activity outside politics.

In a circular addressed to all those invited, the organisers asked whether it must be concluded that the French government wanted at all costs to prevent the industrialisation of Brittany and to compel the people to emigrate.

**GENERAL ELECTIONS:** Candidates for a variety of parties will be seeking the Bretons' votes on March 5th and 12th. For those Bretons who are concerned for their country's future and are aware of the futility of efforts to solve its problems within the French framework, the question arises whether to vote or not. Even if all the representatives elected by the Bretons were primarily concerned with defending Brittany's interests they would constitute such a minority in the French Parliament as to be practically powerless.

The means at the disposal of the Breton parties, MOB and UDB, are very limited in comparison with those available to the Gaullist party (UNR) and even to the Communist Party. The UNR has been training its candidates at a special camp for the job of projecting a good image of themselves, and a big publicity agency has been commissioned to sell these candidates to the people.

Some candidates with a good record as champions of the Breton interests have included in their programmes the creation of a democratically elected Breton Assembly endowed with powers of decision. They are going as independents or on different party tickets (not UNR nor Communist).

The monthly "L'Avenir de la Bretagne" is advising its readers to vote for such candidates, in spite of certain reservations because of their alliances or other points in their programmes. In its March issue, it will publish a list of those to whom first preference should be given. The choice will depend on the replies to 3 questions sent out by the Movement for the organisation of Brittany to all the candidates. L'Avenir warns its readers however against voting for the UNR because of its unconditional support of the Gaullist regime and the betrayal by its deputies of the promise given in 1962 to press the French Assembly to adopt a Law-Programme for the Under-developed Regions; or for the Communists because of their French-nationalistic outlook and their opposition to democratic freedom in the political, economical and social fields.

These are the MOB questions to the candidates:

1. Are you in favour of replacing the Regional Economic Development Commissions (CODERS) particularly the one for "Region Brittany" by a democratically elected Regional Assembly which would be endowed with its own budget and genuine powers of decision for everything concerned with the region's economical, social and cultural interests and which would elect a regional government to put these decisions into force?

2. Do you agree that this Regional Assembly should be composed of two chambers, one elected by universal suffrage and representing the people of the five Breton departments; the other being composed of representatives of the social, economic, trade and cultural forces of Brittany and forming a Social and Economic Council?
3. Will you if elected put forward a law bill to that effect before the French Assembly and do your utmost, irrespective of your party affiliations, to get it adopted?

The Breton branch of the Celtic League is advising the people through its members to vote only in constituencies where candidates answered the 3 questions affirmatively; elsewhere to abstain or to cast their voting paper with the inscription: "For Self-Government in Brittany."

#### BOOKS

ENEZ AR VERTUZ, Volumes 2 and 3 by Youenn Olier.

We have already mentioned the first volume of this fiction work in which the action takes place in the distant future. Y. Olier is one of the few Breton authors who through sheer hard work during their spare time can manage to write such long novels.

DA GOADMOC'HAN GWITIBUNAN, written and illustrated by Yellen, is a satirical "mysterious journey" to a fictitious principality situated somewhere between Brittany and France. It shows how so many Bretons are trying to be themselves while satisfying the requirements of French citizenship.

BARZHAZ-HUD UR GWENEDOUR is a collection of poems on simple themes, but in a rather esoteric Breton, by Abenez. It is printed artistically.

Both books are published by Hillion, Arzhon, Morbihan.

AN NOS O SKEDIN (Part 1) is the diary written by Olier Mordrel during the second half of 1945 when he was a prisoner of war in Italy. He had already been sentenced to death by the French in 1940 when, with another nationalist leader, F. Debauvais, he tried to get the Germans to acknowledge our national aspirations. He tells here of his experience behind the barbed wires and of his relations with the Germans and Italians who were interned with him as well as with the English, Welsh and Scottish soldiers who guarded him. His purpose is didactic, his style and spelling are very personal, but his wide range of experience and his caustic wit provides the reader with an expression of original thought which is uncommon enough in Breton.

LE TRESOR DU BRETON PARLE - Volume 1 - is a study by J. Gros of the Breton spoken in the area Lokemo-Langoat in Northern Brittany. The author, a "diplome des Etudes superieures Celtiques" gathered over a period of 50 years 50000 expressions which are given with a French translation.

The literary prize "Bretagne" was awarded for 1966 to Yann Brekilien, editor of the monthly magazine Breiz for his book "La vie Quotidienne des Paysans de Bretagne au 19<sup>eme</sup> siecle" (Editions Hachette). This research work testifies that the Breton society was at the same time hierarchical and egalitarian.

#### PERIODICALS

EMSAV, a political magazine entirely in Breton, is to be published monthly. Coming after the Unification of the language and the general realisation of the need to create a Breton State, it will concern itself with ways to apply the principles evolved in the Breton national movement, in particular since the last war. One of the ideas expressed in EMSAV is that the only work of basic value for the foundation of the Breton State is that carried out by means of the Breton language., EMSAV. 30 Place des Lices, 35-RENNES.

AR BED KELTIEK continues the publication of Roparz Hemon's all-Breton Dictionary in which the words are explained in the language itself and no longer by means of their French synonyms. It started with the letter L because the Author's intention was then only to show in what form such a work could be carried out. It has now reached the word PENN.

In the same monthly magazine, original plays written by Roparz Hemon or adapted by him from the literature of other countries have become a nearly regular feature. These works are sufficiently short and simple to be played by non-professionals. The last issue of Ar Bed Keltiek is devoted to an adaptation of Carlo Gozzi's play "Il re Cervo" (18th century).

GWERIN publishes ethnological works in Breton. Thanks to the editor, Maodez Glanndour, a series of tales collected during the last part of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century are accessible to students.



SKOL VREIZ is primarily intended for teachers, but its studies in French provide a solid documentation on Brittany under the various headings of language, History, music, geography, etc. ....6 issues a year.

#### BRETON SUMMER SCHOOL

In Breton News Nr 54 we reported that the Gaumont Company had filmed various features of the "Interceltic Camp for Breton Speakers" last Summer. In November, the Company announced that they would not be able to publish the film for a reason which was stated to be non-technical. In a communique by the camp organisers, it is hinted that some influence was exerted from a third quarter to prevent the film being shown. However the recordings made of 2 plays in Breton were broadcast by Radio Rennes.

Preparations are going ahead to make a big success of the forthcoming session in order to celebrate in a fitting manner the camp's 20th anniversary. It will probably be held from the end of July to the 14th of August. For information write to Mrs Vefa de Bellaing, 28 Rue des 3 Freres Le Goff, 22 - Saint-Brieuc, Brittany.

(Communique)

The petition in favour of the teaching of Breton in public schools and of its use in television programmes has been signed by over 110,000 people. Its organisers aim now at 150,000 signatures.

An application by the Federal Union of European Nationalities to be granted consultative status by the Council of Europe was rejected by the Council's Ministerial Committee. FUEN was founded in 1949 for the defence of the European ethnical groups and minorities. Before the war, the Congress of Nationalities played the same role and was recognised by the League of Nations.

#### IS BRETON NOW OFFICIALLY ALIVE?

According to new regulations concerning the languages admitted for University examinations in France, the "regional" languages spoken in the State can now be chosen by students as "second living languages". This applies to Breton in Rennes and Brest (why not Nantes?) as well as to Basque, Catalan and Occitan in 4 Southern Universities.

The "Recteurs d'Academie (Heads of Education) for the areas where these are spoken have been invited to set up Academic Commissions to examine the problems which would arise in connection with their teaching at the various levels of education.

**ARTS EXHIBITION.** The newly created "Association des Artistes et Artisans d'art Bretons" is organising an Arts and Crafts exhibition to be held in the old town and castle of Josselin (Central Brittany). between July 1 and September 15. About two hundred exhibitors are expected to display works of traditional and modern inspiration which will reveal Brittany's creative genius and the continuity of her artistic production. Invitations have been sent to Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the Province of Quebec offering to allocate a fortnight to each country for the display of their national production. For visitors, entertainments will be provided by a "Celtic film-club" and musical evenings (displays of Breton dances, singing and playing) with the participation of 12 of the best Breton pipe-bands and folklore groups.

**MARCEL GUIEYSSE**, a lifelong protagonist of Breton freedom, died aged 86 in Paris, on the 8th February. At his trial in June 1946, already blind, he showed the fallacy of the charges of collaboration with which the French authorities were trying to discredit the nationalists and stood firmly by his Breton convictions. He claimed his full share of responsibility for the setting up of the Breton military unit, Bezen Perrot, which, he said, protected the Breton movement against the murderous attacks of its enemies.

For the past 19 years, although completely blind, he kept in touch with developments in Brittany. He is the author of a well-documented book about the Breton language "La Langue Bretonne, ce qu'elle fut, ce qu'elle est, ce qui se fait pour elle", published by Nouvelles Editions Bretonnes, Quimper, 1936.

The Annual Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities will be held in Aabenraa, Denmark, on the 20-22th May. Write to the Secretary, Mr. Pol Skadegard, Rolighed, Rungsted Kyst, Denmark.

Co-operation between the Gaullist and the Franco regimes was exemplified recently by the prohibition, on order from the French ministry of Home Affairs (Interieur), of the Catalan Cultural Center in Marseille. Created in 1918 by Catalans who had immigrated from Spain, the Centre was preparing to celebrate the traditional Floral Games in Catalan.

## Brittany's Place and Status in Europe?

This was the subject of the debate which took place on November 19th 1966 between five specialists of the Breton and European political, economical and social questions: Yann Brekilien, author of a big "Histoire Europeenne de l'Europe"; Yann Fouere, editor of L'Avenir, one of the M.O.B. leading members, vice-president of the Celtic League; Guy Heraud, professor at Strassburg University, leading figure in the European Federalist Movement, author of "L'Europe des Ethnies"; Michel Phlipponneau, professor at Rennes University, president of the CELIB Economic Commission; Paul Serant, journalist, author of "La France des Minorites". This debate contributed to raise the Breton problem on to a European level, but as a champion of European federalism, Professor Heraud stated that each ethnical group, each region, must have its own distinct "movement" leading to the breaking up of the present "nation-states" and towards their replacement by "region-states". Yann Fouere stated that Brittany must have direct access to Europe and outlined a redistribution of powers between the "regions" and the federal authority.

## Betrayal by notabilities

The Committee for the Study and Liaison of Breton Interests (CELIB) is now practically neutralised. In order to placate its Parliamentary Commission in which government supporters are in a majority, it has decided not to convene its General Assembly until after the French general elections. This conforms with its policy of keeping out of politics: any meeting could have put the U.N.R. deputies in the position of having to explain why they did nothing to promote the Breton interests during the past 5 years, contrarily to their pre-electoral vows.

On the one hand there is the Secretary-General of CELIB, Mr. J. Martray, and its president, R. Pleven, who take the line that CELIB must remain a meeting ground for all Bretons regardless of their allegiance and that its role is to study the problems and draw official attention to them, leaving it to other groups to make use of its reports if they wish, and seeking to create new means for the defence of the Breton interests, such as the Breton Centre in London and the one now being planned for the Avenue F. Roosevelt, near the Rond-Point des Champs-Elysees, in Paris.

On the other hand, we find chiefly Professor Phlipponneau, president of CELIB's Economic Commission, who is convinced that no good can come out of Gaullism for Brittany and that institutions must be changed. He is going forward as a Leftist candidate in the forthcoming elections and his programme includes the setting up of a democratically elected Breton Assembly endowed with powers of decision.

He considers that CELIB has failed since 1962 in its obligations towards the Breton people by not asking the deputies who then promised to fight for a Breton "Law-Programme" to give an account of their mandate; by not conducting a general campaign of information among the people, as promised in 1964; by accepting to be bound up with the government-controlled CODER. This compromise for the sake of local or personal advantages amounts to a betrayal of the Breton people.

## SHARE OF FISHING INDUSTRY in the Breton Economy.

There are 18.600 Breton fishermen. They represent 2% of the active population of Brittany, and 42% of the State's fishermen. However, they are a numerically small category in the French economy and cannot bring much pressure to bear on its rulers. Frenchmen in general are extremely indifferent to things concerned with the sea. Neither the Gaullist government nor its Leftist opposition consider the seamen worthy of their attention. At a big international fishery congress held in Bergen (Norway) recently, there were eleven U.S. representatives, 16 Canadians, 20 Norwegians, etc. but only one representing France: how could he have taken part in the various working groups which held their session simultaneously?

More and more Bretons realise here too the need to take matters in their own hands.

**PROBLEM IS SPECIFIC.** The Finistere and Cotes-du-Nord Federations of Farmers' Unions have refused to join a "Western Confederation" which would have included the 5 Breton departments as well as four neighbouring ones. They explained that for them there is a specifically Breton problem, based on particular facts and realities, to be solved within a Breton framework.

This was also understood by the poultry farmers who demonstrated in Montroulez: "We are not only concerned with poultry, but also with the future of Brittany."