

## Jean-Philippe Chenux

### Comrade Bulliard leaves us at the sound of [General Guisan's march](#)

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"Me, Gérard Bulliard, said Bulliard, I am announcing my death on April 22, 2009, at the age of 82 ...". This unusual ad that appeared on the 24-hour mortuary page (April 28) left more than one reader stunned. Does not the deceased go so far as to publicly confess two "cute sins", "a good trend for" petticoat "and" good food "? The most disturbing thing is when this lover of ladies' thighs insists heavily on his "loyalty in friendships", "loyal friendships" which allowed him to "keep morale up to the end". These must be "post-sixty-ninth" friendships, because Gérard Bulliard made himself known from 1964 to 1969 by his repeated political infidelities and as a great excommunicator of "comrades" at the head of the smallest party. Communist of Western Europe.

Gérard Bulliard had led a delegation of Swiss boxers to the world tournament in Moscow in 1957. He then fell in love with communism and took over as head of the Vevey section of the Workers and People's Party (POP), Vaud section of the Labor Party (PdT) ). In the summer of 1963, on his return from a trip to Albania and while the Sino-Soviet quarrel was in full swing, he left this pro-Soviet party. With a Biel comrade, Raymond de Coulon, who has just been expelled from the Labor Party for "Stalinism", he founded on September 1, 1963 the Swiss Communist Party (PCS), to which Nils Andersson, publisher of La Cité, and his wife Renée (daughter of Lausanne municipal liberal Pierre Vuillemin) immediately joined. At the beginning of 1964, the two accomplices launched L'Étincelle, a newspaper thus named with reference to Lenin's Iskra,

The first dissensions broke out in January 1964: the "workerist" Bulliard expelled for "intellectualism" the editor of La Cité, his wife and Lucien Mathys, three "z'intellectuels du coin" (sic) whose influence within the party was becoming invasive. First purge, first ideological turn: the number one of the PCS denounces the "colonialist actions" of China in Vietnam and the "luxury" of Chinese embassies in Europe. Only Albania finds grace in his eyes. He was full of praise for the Enver Hoxha regime and assured the Albanian people of his unwavering friendship. At the same time, he "pipes" the Federal Police on the actions of his ex-comrade

Andersson and contacts, in Aubonne, with Marc Chantre, journalist and editor specialized in the fight against communism in French-speaking Switzerland.

His quarrel with the pro-Chinese of La Cité prompted Gérard Bulliard to set up his own pharmacy for the "dissemination of progressive books" under the banner of Editions du Clair-de-Lune, in Vevey. In parallel with this activity as a broadcaster, he worked on the creation of a new International: after having made contacts in several European countries, he launched in Paris, in November 1965, a committee for a "Revolutionary International Front". This body, of which he is the self-proclaimed secretary general, sets itself the goals of bringing together the partisans of an extreme class struggle and of "bringing tangible aid to the Vietnamese, Algerian, Spanish and Portuguese communists", aid which will remain essentially verbal. On the Swiss level, he declared war on union leaders and on labor peace.

When, at the end of January 1967, Nils Andersson was expelled from Switzerland for subversive activities, Bulliard felt the wind in its sails. To recover the pro-Chinese of Lausanne, he promises to resume "the just and straight line of Marxism-Leninism" and to reconnect with the pro-Chinese Communist party of Belgium Jacques Grippa. This new Chinese period is however short-lived. On May 29, 1967, the "intellectualist" wing of the PCS obtained the meeting of an extraordinary congress. It reproaches Bulliard for his non-alignment with certain Beijing theses and ends up expelling him from his own party, which confirms the revolutionary principle according to which a "pure" always finds a purer that purifies him.

Whereupon Bulliard dissolves the PCS and announces its reconversion into a Swiss People's Party (PPS), a name adopted for the first time in 1951 by Gaston-Armand Amaudruz and Erwin Vollenweider to designate an ephemeral far-right party. This new formation welcomes a former French SS, Robert Leroy, who will help transform L'Étincelle into an anti-Semitic pamphlet. This fire goes to war against the "Jewish warrior-exploiters" and takes up the cause of the comrades of Budapest. No matter the bottle, as long as we get drunk! In the summer of 1968, under a violently anti-Semitic title, L'Étincelle described the Parisian events of May as "guided by the Jews and the pro-Chinese leftists". In a last number dated August 31, 1969, which would have been printed in 7,000 copies, the State of Israel is called a "wart that will have to disappear and will disappear". It is L'Étincelle which disappears, not without having had the time to recommend to its readers to vote for the Schwarzenbach initiative, presented as "scandalous on the human level, but whose results will be as many explosive mines in the foundations of the golden wall of imperialism".

André Rauber, in his History of the Swiss Communist Movement, does not mention Bulliard's anti-Semitic articles. At most, it is a question of "xenophobia", linked to "an infiltration by members of the former French OAS".

24 heures, in an article published on April 29, above all retains the character of his activity as organizer of boxing fights and furniture seller in Gruyère, with the brief mention of the sending, in 2004, of a letter with content anti-Semitic to several lawyers in the region, a gesture which earned him in 2005 a conviction for anti-Semitism. In a full page of Le Matin dated May 1, we discover a Gérard Bulliard speaking dialect, wearing bredzon very well and ardent defender of Gruyère with holes. This character "in the sense of humor asserted" (sic) and this "great

sportsman" certainly had "strong ideas" (resic) and "was very active in the communist movement, Maoist tendency", but he "hated social conventions" and - last thumbs up to his former party comrades - he was buried "to the sound of General Guisan's march"!

Two lessons can be drawn from the deceased fighter's journey and from the articles that the mainstream press has just devoted to him. First, we see once again that anti-Semitism transcends political divisions and, whatever the communist militants, also contaminates their own ranks, as we have seen elsewhere in all of Eastern Europe under Stalin. Second, the media do not react in the same way to this kind of slippage depending on whether it is the work of people "on the left" or "on the right". The former are entitled to a certain indulgence.

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