

Cossutta further emphasized that the "anti-Yankee" demonstrations of the PCI have nothing in common with actions by the "extreme left" groups, whom he labeled "CIA provocateurs." In view of ten months of virtual silence toward the extraparliamentary left, while the PCI has insisted that "all terrorist violence is from the right" and while the Italian left grouplets drew closer to the Communist Party, Cossutta's call for police action against the left can be aimed only at one group. This is the European Labor Committees, which have been agitating for the ouster of Cossutta, PCI leader Giorgio Amendola, and other PCI CIA operatives from the world Communist movement--on the basis of a pro-Soviet, international revolutionary alternative.

PCI PARTY RANKS PREPARED FOR "PROGRESSIVE COUP"

Nov. 3 (IPS)--Desperate to maintain some left credibility while executing a far-right turn, the national Italian Communist Party (PCI) leadership this week walked into a trap set by the newly "progressive" Defense Minister of Italy Giulio Andreotti. Andreotti, a NATO puppet, has been orchestrating "revelations" of rightwing coup plots among highly placed military figures over the past several months. As an outcome of these exposures, General Miceli, ex-head of Italy's Defense Information Service, was arrested Nov. 1 for political conspiracy, while rumors that there would be a military coup Saturday Nov. 2 flew through Italy and especially through the trade union ranks.

Predictably, the PCI exhibited exactly the kind of apolitical bravado which would ensure the round-up and massacre of their cadres were such a coup to actually take place. The word went out from national party headquarters that party militants should not sleep at home in their own beds that night. Meanwhile, in cities such as Turin, trade union meetings were called off for the week on the pretext of the fear of a coup. In Bologna, PCI leaders bragged that in the event of a rightwing attempt, they had access to arms--not the rusty rifles of the World War II Resistance days, but the "arms of the State!"

Such self-delusion of the part of the PCI local leadership dovetails precisely with the CIA-Rockefeller scenario laid out at the Trilateral Commission's secret Bellagio meeting in October--for "progressive" military dictatorships throughout Europe, with the complicity of working class parties.