

Special Report-Italy

# Rockefeller-Agnelli Lockheed "Watergate" Of Andreotti Backfires

Sept. 4 (NSIPS) — The Andreotti government of Italy is now in a stronger position to carry out its leading role on behalf of a positive advanced sector reply to the international development initiatives of the Non-Aligned movement. The last effort to weaken and destroy the new Premier, a hoaxed-up "Lockheed scandal" implicating Andreotti himself through FIAT financial emperor Gianni Agnelli, served only to rally support to the new government, and was a completely dead issue within five days of its inception.

The Rockefeller-Agnelli "Watergate" attempt began with the sudden publication of criminal charges against Andreotti in the Agnelli associated magazine, L'Espresso on Aug. 27. L'Espresso claimed to have documents released in the U.S. by a Lockheed Corporation officer in Phoenix, Arizona, showing that, while head of the Italian Defense Ministry, Andreotti had accepted kickbacks associated with Italian purchases of the Starfighter and Orion jet planes.

The charges suffered from a lack of credibility at the start. La Repubblica, a major Italian daily, reported the charges in a front-page Aug. 31 article which asked aloud: "Is this believable? Is it a political maneuver orchestrated by right-wing American and Italian circles?" Even L'Espresso felt compelled to comment on its own initial reports: "we cannot exclude the hypothesis that the documentation might have been held back for a long period of time, and deliberately prefabricated for the purpose of attacking the government...."

On Sept. 1, Andreotti himself replied to the fabrications in an interview with editor Scalfiri of La Repubblica: "I do not doubt the good faith of the journalists who received and published these documents. But let me confirm what I have already had the occasion to say elsewhere: these are pure inventions."

By the next day, "pure inventions" is precisely what everyone knew the alleged documents to be. The Sept. 2 edition of La Stampa featured a report by its Washington correspondent, who related that he, too, had been approached by a "Mr. Hauser" of Lockheed's Phoenix offices who offered to sell him the documents. They weren't bought, because they were obvious fakes.

The same day's edition of Avanti, the Socialist Party newspaper, reported that, indeed, "Mr. Hauser" worked for Lockheed, but for the past 18 years, he had also worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. "Mr. Hauser" also possesses a criminal conviction in the Republic of West Germany for forgery.

Amid broad expressions of support for Andreotti coming from sources as varied as La Repubblica and the Italian Communists, the Lockheed Corporation itself put the "Watergate" campaign to death Sept. 3. In a corporate press statement carried by the Italian ANSA news service, Lockheed labelled the scandalous documentation "false and contradictory."

The outcome of the absurd Rockefeller-Agnelli operation has been a strong consolidation of the Premier's domestic political support and continued, rapid motion by Andreotti to cement Italy's alliance with the Third World around the resolutions adopted at the Colombo development conference. Andreotti's Christian Democratic press announced yesterday that a "think-tank" for global development has been established to promote "technical, economic, and cultural cooperation with the

developing countries." Its headquarters were located in Sardinia "for the profound reasons of the real unity and homogeneity between the Mediterranean peoples and, principally, the Arab countries."

## Andreotti Too Involved In Lockheed Cyclone?

According to Disturbing Documents Revealed by L'Espresso

*The following are excerpts of an article in the Italian daily La Repubblica Aug. 31 on charges, first published in the news magazine Espresso, against Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti for involvement in the Lockheed scandal:*

From the inexorable Lockheed dossier there comes today a new and clamorous revelation for which the magazine L'Espresso is acting as spokesman: it regards a series of kickbacks involving the American company and Giulio Andreotti, current president of the Council (of Ministers). Is this believable news? Is it a political manoeuvre orchestrated by right-wing American and Italian circles? At present it is difficult to answer these questions, (questions which) on the other hand Espresso itself poses in the article revealing the facts and documentation. One thing is certain thus far: the maneuvers inside and outside our own country which have been intertwined around the Lockheed affair would not have been possible if the Commission of Enquiry (of Parliament) had carried out its duty quickly....

According to Espresso, there exist documents gathered in the United States which reveal the role which Giulio Andreotti played, by accepting kickbacks, in the buying of Starfighter and Orion planes...

L'Espresso maintains that the documents in its possession come from functionaries or ex-functionaries of the American multinational whose identities cannot be revealed. The authenticity of the documents was supposedly established by a handwriting expert, by a comparison of dates, and by tests on the age of the paper on which the documents were written...

In the communique reporting the news of these documents, the Roman magazine advises that "it cannot exclude the hypothesis that the documentation might have been held back for a long period of time, deliberately and prefabricated for the purpose of attacking the government headed by Andreotti who is considered, rightly or wrongly, to be the man of the historic compromise (inclusion of the Italian Communist Party in the government-ed.) by some American circles...."

## Andreotti Answers The Lockheed Scandal

*The following are excerpts of Prime Minister Andreotti's answers to the Lockheed charges through an interview which appeared in La Repubblica Sept. 1:*

by Eugenio Scalfari

**Andreotti:** I do not doubt the good faith of the journalists who have received and published the documents. But let me confirm what I have already had the occasion to say elsewhere: these are pure inventions. If I have any prestige in the Defense Ministry it is because I have always scrupulously respected the

administrative and technical competence of the organs and persons charged with making responsible decisions, especially in the very delicate field of purchases. Imagine then if, especially in the choice of airplanes, I would ever, for whatever reasons, not stick to this point of view. It is not the minister who flies (the planes), but the pilots and passengers. It must therefore be the military who decides (on the choice of airplanes)...

Only once was there a problem — with the F-104 — where there already existed a German-Belgian-Dutch consortium, and Italy adhered to this consortium with some trouble because the others did not like very much to have to expand their consortium...

Only once was there a discordant voice, that of General Pasti, but even he never raised doubts as to the administrative correctness of the entire operation. Maintaining an exemplary rigor in relations with the Americans was also useful in demonstrating that Italy knew how to spend well its scarce resources and budgeted itself in order to obtain notable aid for our industries and in the pricing of military supplies.

**Question:** What you say is self-evident, Mr. President. Misfortune however has desired that these concepts be largely contradicted in practice. If (these principles) had always been rigorously applied, we today would not today be witnessing an ongoing case incriminating two ex-Ministers of Defense and casting suspicion on an ex-president of the Council (of Ministers).

**Andreotti:** I am speaking of myself personally. Do not forget that I have always held a rather unique position in my party. I have never been the head of a large faction or a strong power group. If I had not been, from the standpoint of morality, absolutely unassailable, I would not today after so many years be at this point (in the position of Prime Minister). Thus I have always kept this situation so very much in mind that I have never — I repeat, never — dealt personally with the question of supplies, neither during the period of the F-104 nor afterwards...

**Question:** There can exist blame however in not keeping a close enough watch over things, which is no less serious than actually carrying out illegal acts.

**Andreotti:** Yes, there can exist blame for lack of vigilance. You, if I remember correctly, rebuked me in Parliament over the Sifar affair. However, the presumed actions for which you accused me today have nothing to do with a possible "guilt for lack of vigilance." As to your observations, I can answer that, as it seems to me, there are institutional tasks in the purview of public administration in which the Minister must not interfere except to put an end to eventual abuses. In fact, when I returned to Defense (Ministry) in 1974, I had to change attitudes with respect to the secret services, and precisely because in the interim, there had occurred the Sifar events and the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry.

## La Repubblica Editorial

*The following are some of the comments of leading Italian press and political figures on the ill-fated "Lockheed scandal" against Premier Giulio Andreotti:*

**by Eugenio Scalfari**

...Andreotti has the Christian Democracy in his hand like no other leader since De Gasperi had. The reason is simple: Were Andreotti to decide to leave his seat for any reason, the Christian Democracy would find itself in tremendous problems and probably would lose the Prime Ministry. His strength comes from the outside, not the inside. Inside he is weak, but outside he is "fortissimo" (most strong). For the Socialist he is one of the few possible people to talk with. For Botteghe Oscure (PCI headquarters-ed.) he is the only one. The Vatican trusts him. The industrialists, too. Cefis (head of state petrochemical industries-ed.) has no other patron. He has enemies, but they are only capable of small disturbances, not out-right battles....Andreotti will be fortissimo and stable for a long time; the eotti era is bound to last...

### **Napolitano: "Maneuvers For A New Crisis Are Absurd"**

*Corriere della Sera, Sept. 2:*

There are those who say that the government will have a short life. Napolitano (Communist Party Secretariat member) says: "The rumors and maneuvers about a more or less imminent government crisis are pure absurdity. They are part of a design that has nothing to do with the interests of the popular masses and the democratic regime. We want to say most emphatically that it is necessary to face the country's problems without hesitation and in this sense we ask the government to live up to its commitments. Botteghe Oscure appreciates the seriousness that the new Minister has so far shown..."

### **Lockheed Confirms: The Documents Are False**

*Corriere Della Sera, Sept. 3.*

Rome: The documents implying Andreotti in the Lockheed scandal are false. It has been revealed by the company's spokesman, Grover Nobles, who limited himself to read a statement: "Lockheed had never seen the copies of documents published by Italian journals which allegedly were written by Lockheed officials. Therefore the company states that those documents are counterfeit."