

Italy Takes On The Terrorists

An International Cleanup Is Launched Following The Moro Murder

Former Italian Premier Aldo Moro's murder at the hands of Red Brigades terrorists has failed in its declared aim of disrupting Italy's governing alliance of Christian Democrats and Communists. Instead of the anarchy and civil war hopefully predicted for Italy by Henry spokesmen for the City of London "crisis managers," the ruling coalition is more solid than ever before. Moreover, it is moving against the networks that run terror in Italy with unprecedented thoroughness and the full support of the Italian population.

The antiterror measures being taken by the Italian government and its allies demonstrate for the first time the sort of applied knowledge of how terrorism really works (as opposed to the "left-right," "sociological phenomena" fictions routinely presented in the press) that is required to successfully combat not just the Red Brigades, but their highest-level controllers.

Important to Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti's success in taking on the terrorist networks in his own government, which includes the dismissal of over 500 members of military intelligence and related services, are the simultaneous, internationally coordinated counterterror operations involving the Soviets, the French, the West Germans, and the Arabs.

On May 17, the Italian Parliament voted approval of an antiterrorist policy jointly proposed by the ruling Christian Democracy and its Communist Party allies. This policy, known as Plan 3, was originally blocked last week in the first voting session by a coalition of the Socialist Party, the neofascist MSI party, and the British-spawned Radical party, prompting a scathing attack by the Communists against the Socialists whom they correctly labeled as saboteurs of national self-interest and as fascist collaborators.

The parliamentary vote for a strong antiterrorist policy followed local elections this past weekend which showed a net gain for the Christian Democratic Party and a slight loss for the Communist Party. "The election results, while a victory for the DC, are not a catastrophe for the Communist Party," said DC leader Flaminio Piccoli on West German television yesterday. "The Communist Party has taken an important step on the road to democracy, and the electors and party must realize this. The election results give strong support for the current government."

Andreotti's Cleanup

As part of Plan 3, which includes total reform of the secret services and police, the Andreotti government is cleaning its own house.

First, Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga resigned his post on May 10, reportedly at Andreotti's insistence.

On May 15, the Italian government announced the dismissal of some 500 agents, including high-level

officials from the Italian secret services.

The official Communist Party daily, L'Unita, commented on May 16:

A communique from the Ministry of Defense . . . states that the measures adopted derive from . . . "the necessity for a scrupulous actuation of the norms and the spirit of the law" . . .

...Some hundreds of officials and sub-officials . . . are being reintegrated into the ranks of the three armed forces and the Carabinieri. One part of these . . . because of specific activities they engaged in in the old secret service—have been, or will be fired.

The "movement of personnel" . . . regards principally the much discussed "D" Service (internal defense) . . . on which the various counter-espionage centers depended . . .

A large part of the activity up to now performed by the "D" Service will be transferred to the SISDE.... The functions attributed to the "D" service... include personnel selection, civilian and military, and must be able to give—as the reform law requires—absolute assurance of scrupulous loyalty to the values of the republican and antifascist Constitution.

The Milan daily Corriere della Sera said on May 16:

On May 22, within a week, the SISMI and the SISDE "must become functional"...because the law will take effect. But will they "be able to function"?

"The killing of Moro has shown that the police are blind without the intelligence services," said Communist Senator Ugo Pecchioli, vice president of the Control Commission....A high official stated, "The reconstitution of the forces will bring tranquility behind the front lines. One cannot ask the Red Brigades to lay low for several months. The Red Brigades have profited by the collapse of the services."

At CESIS, control center for the SISMI and SISDE, there was an "underground earthquake" provoked by the resignation of the secretary, Gaetano Napolitano..."Napolitano knew he was unprepared, and resigned as an act of conscience."

...A high official (of the SISMI) said, "Whoever leaves, sub-official or general, will not leave a vacuum. He will be replaced....We are talking about a transfusion. The oldest, the least efficient, and anyone suffering from judicial boredom will leave."...

A SISDE spokesman observed, "If one can actuate a reform, giving room for young personnel, a war is won. Up to now, we have only taken up the issue of terrorists..."

Communists Target London's Cuccia

Simultaneous to the Middle East crackdowns, attacks have surfaced from the Italian Communist Party pointing to the role of the financier center of Mediobanca

and its Lazard Freres link to London in running terrorism in Italy.

On May 4, the Communist daily L'Unita ran a front-page article by PCI Central Committee member Luigi Macaluso that all but openly identified the British-linked banker Enrico Cuccia and his Mediobanca as the principal roadblock to cracking the Red Brigades. What makes the point is the article's title: "The Sanctuaries." "Sanctuary" is the widely known code name for Mediobanca.

Here, excerpts from Macaluso's article:

Why aren't the investigations into Moro's kidnapping making any progress? Why is it that after a month and a half since the Via Fani assault, the investigation passes on to the Attorney General of the Republic under the title of not only massacre and kidnapping but of political conspiracy attempts against the Constitution?

We need to go over these questions. Every day that passes adds new alarming elements which make us think how the undertaking of the so-called Red Brigades overlaps with something different, quite different....

There is indeed a problem of efficiency, capabilities, and material and psychological preparedness of the police apparatus.... But—let's face it—this is not the only problem....

There is a sensation which is becoming increasingly concrete and we want to spell it out: the sensation that what paralyzes the investigations is not located only in the technical insufficiencies, but that the investigations are blocked because they come up against obscure and protected "sanctuaries." Let it be clear, we are not referring only to the restraint which could be represented by embarrassment, a reverential fear for the family. No, we are talking about other "sanctuaries"; we are referring to the fact that after March 16.... certain forces have gone into motion, forces which in order to prevent (the investigations) are ready for any adventure. They are ready to give a fatal blow to the first Republic. We are facing a subversive design maybe more dangerous than the one of 1969, which mobilizes various and different forces: from anti-communism and "left" subversion to old centers of power (in the financial and state apparatus fields) which were hegemonic until some

Who Is Francesco Cossiga?

Francesco Cossiga would have been better called Italy's Minister of Terror.

His political career has been marked by his cover up of the many destabilization operations launched against the Italian state since the 1964 coup attempt by General De Lorenzo. But the latest operation—the kidnapping and assassination of former Premier Aldo Moro—backfired into his forced resignation May 10.

The irony is that it was Moro who promoted Cossiga to Interior Minister in 1976, precisely because Cossiga, from his post in the Defense Ministry, had proven more than competent in covering up not only the Lorenzo case, but all the events and important investigations which lead to the origins of the "strategy of tension" which has gripped Italy since 1969.

In 1974, Moro and Cossiga found a common enemy in Andreotti, then the Defense Minister, who was about to make public the cover-up scandal. Andreotti was demoted, and Moro made Cossiga Interior Minister in 1976. But when Moro became instrumental in the formation of the present Andreotti government, Moro became expendable, a tool to further destabilize the Italian state, because Cossiga's loyalties are not to Moro or Italy, but to his creators, the British intelligence services.

The Italian magazine Tempo Illustrato published a biographical note on Oct. 10, 1976, outlining Cossiga's meteoric rise to the Italian Interior Ministry.

Having been elected DC deputy in 1963, 1968, and 1972, the magazine notes, Cossiga became "a pupil and advisor for special affairs and secret services to Antonio Segni," president of the republic. For Segni, he did special jobs such as being the "liason between the president, the army's chief of staff, and the head of the SIFAR" (the old secret services dismantled after their involvement in the 1964 coup attempt by General De

Lorenzo-ed). During this period, Cossiga worked closely with General De Lorenzo, head of the SIFAR and also leading organizer of the coup. Protected by Segni, who was "above suspicions," Cossiga was made Undersecretary of Defense in the third Moro government "and was personally in charge of the famous 'omissions' which blocked the investigations" into Lorenzo's coup attempt. The "omissions" were information suddenly classified by Premier Aldo Moro for "state security reasons."

Cossiga remained at the Defense Department throughout the Leone and Rumor governments, in charge of "establishing more omissions to censor as much as possible the work of the parliamentary inquiry commission. A personal friend of De Lorenzo and General Miceli (head of the terrorist wing of the new secret services—the SID—indicted for participation in a 1974 coup attempt — ed.), Cossiga deepened his specialization in the secret services and the strategy of tension." In 1974, he saw a "dangerous enemy in that Andreotti" who had taken over as Defense Minister and who "was ruining the practice of the omissions and about to destroy Cossiga's career."

Andreotti was forced out of the Defense ministry, and in 1976 Moro appointed Cossiga Interior Minister. Tempo summarized Cossiga's work as Interior Minister in the following way: "His project has been to centralize all intelligence activities in the Interior Ministry, . . . to marginalize the Carabinieri . . . and destroy all the competence of military intelligence and counterintelligence in order to centralize it to a new OVRA (Mussolini's gestapo)."

Cossiga's resignation has killed this project, as well as the "omission" policy which has been Cossiga's expertise throughout his career and which he used to cover up every single subversive operation in Italy.

years ago, but who feel they are in danger of perishing and who still hold a blackmail capability.

Everyone has realized that... the terrorists' political design has undergone a profound modification. From the attempt to plunge the country's life into a wave of attempts that could provoke reactionary countercoups, it has developed into a more subtle and insidious maneuver which aims at destabilization by taking advantage of Moro's dramatic human condition as an instrument to break the DC and the democratic forces...

Everyone has become aware of this new strategy by the Red Brigades. What has not been said yet is that this new twist has occurred because forces much more powerful than the terrorist organization have hooked up with the maneuver. Forces which, by the way, are not very difficult to locate in the realm of the interests hit by the new political framework, between men and groups who have seen themselves pulled away from the leverage of financial and economic power; who fear that they might be called upon to answer for their wrongdoing. Forces who oppose any prospective of recovery and renovation, who are not resigned to the idea of the country coming out of the crisis under the guidance of a coalition with Communist participation...

The International War on Terror

At the very moment that Moro's body was discovered, U.S. Armed Forces Radio was reporting that a Red Brigades-linked terrorist, arrested May 9 in Beirut, had confessed to being an agent of Israeli intelligence. The woman was identified as a member of the Zurich-based "Palestinian Solidarity Committee" — a group recently described by the Egyptian government as a control point between the Wadi Haddad-led terrorist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (including "Carlos"), the Red Brigades, and the West German Baader-Meinhof gang. A 30-member terrorist cell, including several Zurich-based terrorists, was rounded up last month in Cairo where it was plotting a series of bombings and assassinations of Egyptian and Western European political leaders.

German-Egyptian Cooperation

Immediately following the historic Schmidt-Brezhnev meeting in Bonn the weekend of May 6, West German Justice Minister Vogel visited Cairo, Egypt for a series of meetings with his Egyptian counterpart on collaboration against the international terrorists. Out of that meeting came a joint communiqué that stated in part: "Both nations agree that the threat of terrorism to the civilized democracies has to be met with the utmost decisiveness, and that there should be no giving in to terrorist blackmail."

Vogel's Bonn office announced that an official of the West German Embassy in Ethiopia had been recalled and charged with conspiring with a British Embassy official to run drugs and guns into Ethiopia.

All of these developments paint an unmistakable

picture of highly coordinated counterterror actions — based on the kind of sophisticated understanding of "how terrorism works" that has been previously shown only in the U.S. and European Labor Parties' approach and in the virtually buried 1974 "Dossier San Marco" (authored by French intelligence agent Giannettini and recently published in the *Executive Intelligence Review* April 25 and May 2, 1978, Vol. V, Nos. 16 and 17). That "dossier" established a chain of evidence linking Willy Brandt's Second International faction, and British and Israeli intelligence to the deployment of both "left" and "right" terrorist gangs in the Mediterranean region during the 1969-73 period, as a direct political deployment against the Nixon Administration's "Rogers Plan" for Mideast peace.

The "dossier" has, in fact, been significantly updated as a result of the recent terrorist crackdown in Egypt and the subsequent interrogations of the 30 jailed terrorists. A Cairo-Beirut-Zurich-Rome terrorist "underground railroad" has been exposed by Egyptian Prosecutor General Ibrahim Kaliubi and documented, in part, in the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* of April 29.

In an interview in *Corriere*, Egyptian Attorney General Ibrahim Kaliubi gave details of the arrest of one Sergio Mantovani, a student at Cairo American University, one of four European students apprehended for complicity with the Red Brigades and with Palestinian terrorists connected to the late Wadi Haddad.

According to Kaliubi, Mantovani was a Swiss journalist up to 1975, when he met Doris and Gianni Bachetta, also Swiss, and Elvira Guenther, a West German. He came to Egypt as a result of his interest in the "Palestinian cause," through contacts with Al Fatah.

In July 1977, Mantovani met Giorgio Bellini from Zurich, a "Marxist" who proposed collaboration with the Red Brigades to Mantovani. The Red Brigades were to furnish money and arms for a plot to undermine the Egyptian government and to overthrow President Sadat, in retaliation against his Mideast peace initiative.

At the same time, Wadi Haddad, according to Egyptian security officials sent \$80,000 to Mantovani who admitted receiving part of the sum.

The European students reportedly maintained contact with the Red Brigades through a post office box in Rome, and acted as couriers to Palestinians in Aswan, Khartoum, and Baghdad.

Bellini and a companion, Elena Egli, who has since disappeared, reportedly planned to blow up a hotel near the Tahra palace where the Begin-Sadat peace talks took place, but did not carry out their plans.

The four Europeans and 19 Palestinians arrested with them face trial by a special Egyptian security tribunal, and possible death sentences.

The woman arrested two days ago in Beirut—the woman now identified as a confessed agent of Israeli intelligence—was part of the same Zurich organization as Bellini.