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## BANKING

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### Pallavicini funds found in West German banking scandal

This week's issue of *Der Spiegel* slyly leaked an important piece of information in connection with the recent series of West German banking scandals.

In a news item on Ludwig Poullain, the former chairman of Westdeutsche Landesbank (WdL), who is presently under investigation for shady real estate dealings, the West German magazine noted in passing that in one instance funds channeled into a Poullain-organized financial operation had come from the "*Pro Deo*" faction of the Roman Catholic Church.

*Spiegel's* reference to *Pro Deo* will only be appreciated by a few individuals among its multi-million readership: a small number of European bankers, and also the official investigators involved in tracking down the murderers of former Italian Prime Minister Moro.

Before letting our readers in on the secret, we would like to make two comments. First, that the *Executive Intelligence Review* researchers read the *Pro Deo* reference as another confirmation of a hypothesis we have been working on since 1977 as to who ordered the terrorist assassination of West Germany banker Jürgen Ponto in July, 1977. Secondly, that although we never agreed with Ludwig Poullain's goals, we suspect now that he was probably a victim of blackmail.

#### From Rome to Brussels

*Pro Deo* is a factional arm within the Vatican run by the Pallavicini family. The Pallavicinis are the crown of Italy's black nobility, the command center for every feudalistic attack on economic development and republi-

canism which Italy has been subjected to for half a millennium. Members of the Pallavicini family have been named in Italian press reports as under suspicion by police authorities investigating Moro's murder.

Now Pallavicini-*Pro Deo* funds—which come from the family's involvement in international narcotics trafficking—have turned up in connection with Poullain's shady dealings. This should be incorporated as a crucial lead in tracking down how Black Guelph aristocratic families throughout Europe have been increasingly attempting to manipulate and maneuver their way into key behind-the-scenes controlling positions in West German banking operations since 1974.

The two most important events setting the stage for these maneuverings, in which Poullain's resignation as WdL chairman was actually a secondary development, were the 1974 collapse of the Herstatt Bank in Cologne and the 1977 murder of Ponto.

One of the most important effects of the Herstatt bankruptcy was the reorganization it provoked in Belgium's private banking system. As one result of the Herstatt's foreign exchange losses, Belgium's largest discount bank, the Banque de Bruxelles, also lost large sums and nearly closed down. It was saved by a loan from, and eventual merger with, the interests of the Lambert family—Belgium's Rothschild branch—who are financial minions of the Belgian monarchy.

The Bruxelles-Lambert merger enormously strengthened the Belgian monarchy's international financial power, backed by its mining interests in Africa. Leading up to 1976,

those African interests were directly threatened by Ponto's efforts to pump West German and French investment capital into Africa, with the aim of drawing black African nations and South Africa into a joint development effort. Ponto, moreover, was murdered just after he made a tour of U.S. business centers in the hope of attracting U.S. corporate and banking support for his plan.

The obvious point that the Belgian monarchy and its international Black Guelph allies had every reason to push Ponto out of the European banking picture is underlined by Belgian monarchy sponsorship of Robert Triffin as a major economic policymaker.

In a forthcoming article on the Gessler Report issued by West German banking authorities this year to review national banking legislation, we will review Triffin's direct involvement in trying to abort Ponto's efforts. For present purposes, we shall merely point out that when Poullain resigned from WdL in 1977, he was replaced by a long-term collaborator of Triffin's, Walter Seipp, both of whom coordinated their financial warfare against Ponto from their positions as directors of the Belgian Kredietbank.

—Renée Sigerson