



Francesco Cossiga

Italy

A terrorist government attacks the Communists

by Vivian Freyre Zoakos

The second government of Italian Prime Minister Cossiga, which the *Executive Intelligence Review* has documented to be composed of drug pushers and other sa- traps of the Italian "black nobility," has placed at the top of its agenda the reversal of the highly successful anti-terrorist effort conducted under the previous Andreotti administration.

As he took his vows of office last week, Premier Cossiga was simultaneously airing his plan to destroy the currently independent Italian justice structure, substituting for it a new series of institutions under his direct control.

The Justice Department would be reorganized, together with the peculiar Italian institution of the magistracy which allows the latter to take turns both trying court cases as judges and actually conducting the investigations themselves. It was a section of the magistracy, allied to former Premier Andreotti, which last April began to score a series of coups in the jailing of terrorists and, more significantly, their political controllers.

The secret services would also be revamped, while the Prime Minister is requesting from Parliament the necessary powers to offer pardons to terrorists and Mafia members willing to turn states evidence.

Shortly thereafter, the Italian press was rocked with the "revelations" of a newly jailed terrorist purporting to be a member of the "strategic command" of the Red Brigades gang. The terrorist, Peci, had suddenly authored a 70-page confession denying the thesis of the magistrates that Italian terrorists were but a branch of an international phenomenon secretly controlled by otherwise "unimpeachable" individuals, many of them

presumed to be well known political figures.

The magistrates' evidence had in fact pointed directly at the Italian Socialist Party leadership as the controllers of Italian terrorists. The Socialists are now the new coalition partners in the Cossiga government.

The import of the Peci allegations have served the immediate purpose of veering attention away from the Socialists and their immediate collaborators such as the jailed Red Brigades leader, Antonio Negri. On April 24, the Italian press carried the announcement that Peci's confession had cleared Negri, who was otherwise being held for participation in the famous kidnapping and assassination of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro in May, 1978.

With suspicion being rapidly sidetracked away from the Socialists, the party's general secretary, Bettino Craxi, has chosen the moment to go onto the offensive against Andreotti's factional allies: the Italian Communist Party.

Over the course of the past week, Craxi gave two successive interviews to the Italian press hinting at Communist control of terrorists. Craxi argues that indeed there is a unified international command for international terrorism, telling his interviewer in *Corriere della Sera* that he, Craxi, has it in his power to solve the "terrorism riddle" not only for Italy, but for the rest of the world.

Craxi referred to a mysterious "grand old man" (*grosso vecchio*), promising that if his name were revealed it would be known to everyone. His only clue was that the *grosso vecchio* had been a top Partisan leader in the second world war Resistance movement, and very prominent 10 years ago.

It was the Italian Communist Party that led the Italian Resistance, and nearly all its famous leaders were Communists. The one important exception was the oil industrialist Enrico Mattei, who was murdered by British intelligence a dozen years ago.

Craxi's teasing interviews have now become the subject of wild speculation by the Italian press. Journalists are beginning to comb the newspapers of ten years ago to determine whom Craxi might mean.

This charade has already begun to accomplish the aims of the Cossiga administration. First, attention has been diverted from the real sources of terrorism, which if revealed would lead investigators straight to the new cabinet offices, including especially the Socialist coalition partners.

Secondly, the stage is being readied for an inevitable attempt to provoke an anti-communist hysteria. This is inevitable, because the Italian Communists are the still-powerful enemies of the Cossiga and Socialist terrorist political tendencies, and because it is an obvious requirement of the currently worsening cold war climate into which the U.S. has maneuvered the West.